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NEW AMAZING STORIES

Sinister TALES



No
41

1 1/2

GREAT SCOTT,
IT'S A TEMPLE---
AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE SEA!

MANY SECRETS LIE
BURIED BENEATH THE
OCEAN'S WAVES! FOR THE
MOST EXCITING OF ALL,
READ---
"The RETURN OF
DR. MARITAIN!"



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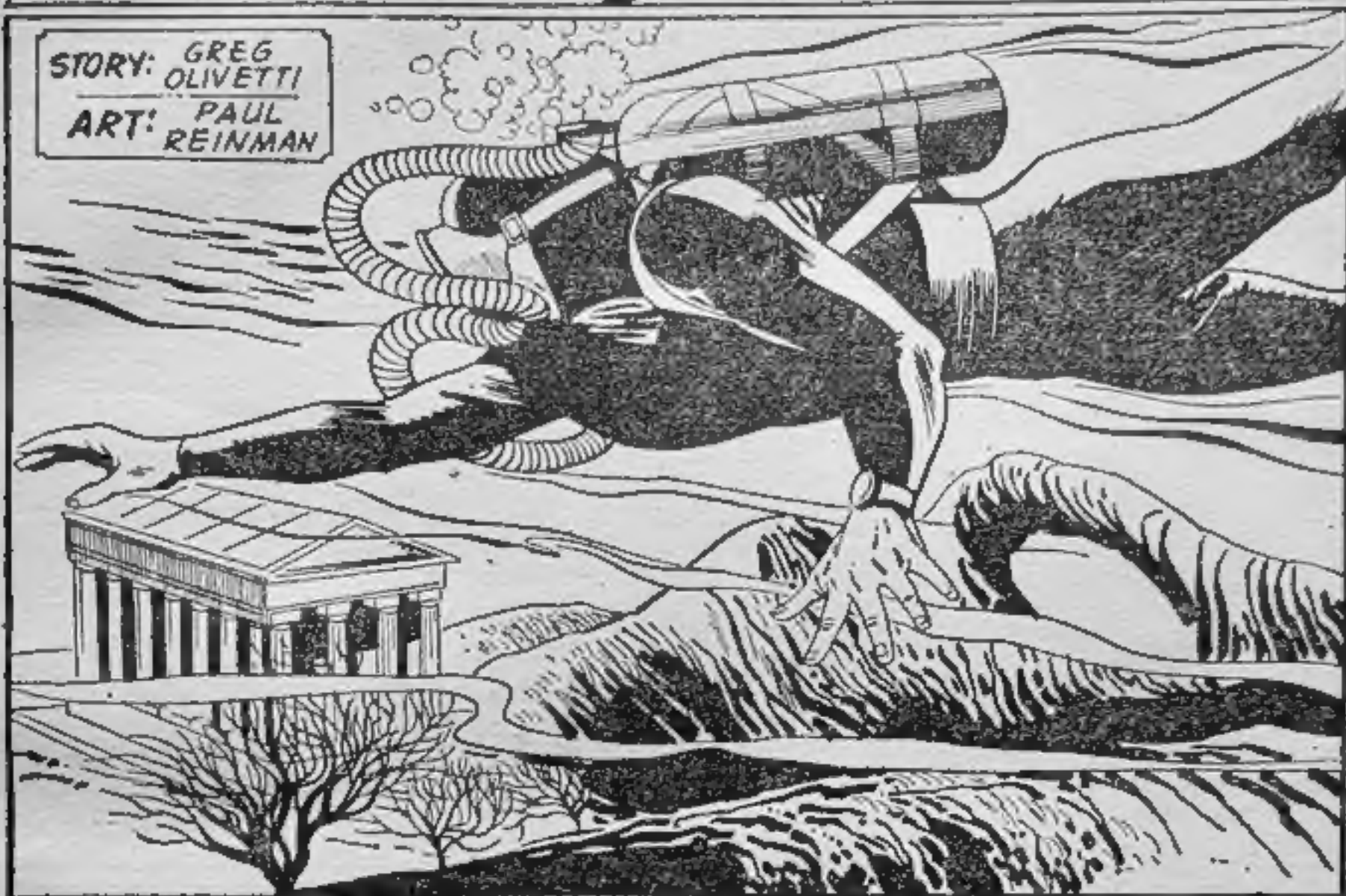
SINISTER TALES No. 41

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HE HAD VANISHED TWO YEARS BEFORE, DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE IN THE UNCHARTED DEPTHS OF THE PACIFIC! AND THEN SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY, HE WAS BACK AMONG THE LIVING! WAS IT ANY WONDER THAT MEN REFUSED TO BELIEVE WHEN THEY HEARD OF--

The RETURN of DR. MARITAIN!

STORY: GREG OLIVETTI
ART: PAUL REINMAN



DEEP BENEATH THE SEA, AS THE OCEANOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION CHARTED THE FLOOR OF THE VAST PACIFIC--

IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PHOTOGRAPH THE BOTTOM IN THIS SWIFT CURRENT!

BETTER SIGNAL TOPSIDE TO HAUL US UP! I DON'T THINK THE CABLES CAN HOLD MUCH LONGER!

SUDDENLY, THROUGH A VIEWING PORT...

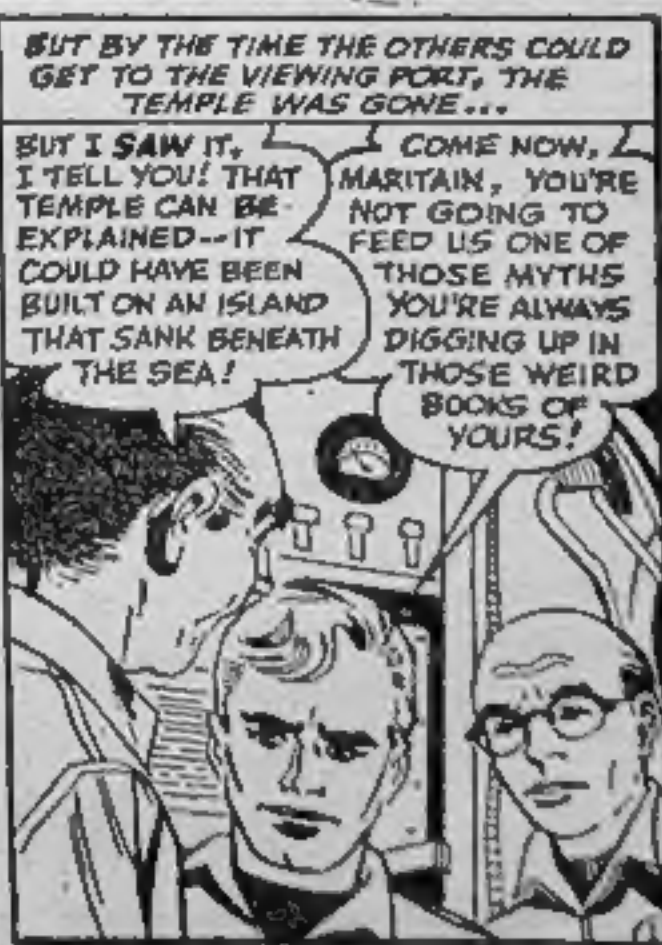
BENTON, LOOK OUT THERE! IT--IT'S SOME KIND OF TEMPLE!

TALK SENSE, MARITAIN! WHAT WOULD A TEMPLE BE DOING DOWN HERE--TEN THOUSAND FEET BENEATH THE SURFACE?

BUT BY THE TIME THE OTHERS COULD GET TO THE VIEWING PORT, THE TEMPLE WAS GONE...

BUT I SAW IT, I TELL YOU! THAT TEMPLE CAN BE EXPLAINED--IT COULD HAVE BEEN BUILT ON AN ISLAND THAT SANK BENEATH THE SEA!

COME NOW, MARITAIN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FEED US ONE OF THOSE MYTHS YOU'RE ALWAYS DIGGING UP IN THOSE WEIRD BOOKS OF YOURS!



DR. MARITAIN WAS CONSIDERED A QUEER FISH BY THE REST OF THE EXPEDITION! HIS ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE TEMPLE ONLY CONFIRMED THEIR OPINION--

LAUGH IF YOU LIKE! BUT MEN HAVE ALWAYS TOLD LEGENDS OF LOST CONTINENTS, OF KINGDOMS AND ISLANDS THAT SANK BENEATH THE SEA!

DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY BELIEVE THOSE FABLES ABOUT ATLANTIS AND MU, AND THE ISLES OF YS AND AVALON!

WE'RE SCIENTISTS, MARITAIN! YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THOSE FAIRY TALES!

AND I SAY THERE MAY BE SOME TRUTH IN THOSE LEGENDS, BENTON! SCIENCE TELLS US THAT CONTINENTS ARE CONSTANTLY SHIFTING, RISING, AND FALLING BENEATH THE SEA!



AS HE SPOKE, HE SEEMED LIKE A MAN WHO HAD DREAMED A DREAM OR SEEN A VISION--

BUT DERISIVE LAUGHTER ANSWERED HIS WORDS--

WHO KNOWS BUT WHAT THERE ONCE WAS SOME WONDROUS LAND WHERE MANKIND LIVED IN PEACE AND PLENTY? SOMEDAY WE MAY FIND IT AGAIN--A LAND WITHOUT STRIFE AND GREED, WHERE ALL WOMEN ARE BEAUTIFUL AND ALL MEN STRONG AND HANDSOME?



I THINK I SEE IT NOW, MARITAIN! WITH A FACE LIKE YOURS, I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR HOPING TO FIND A LAND WHERE ALL MEN ARE STRONG AND HANDSOME!



MARITAIN TURNED AWAY--THE CRUELTY OF THE WORDS TEARING AT HIM LIKE TALONS--

YOU'RE RIGHT, MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE TOO ROUGH BENTON! HIS L-ON HIM--BUT HE WAS ASKING INTEREST IN THOSE OLD LEGENDS IS JUST FOR IT! A COMPENSATION! HE'S TRYING TO FIND THE STRENGTH AND BEAUTY THAT NATURE DENIED HIM!



LET THEM LAUGH! SOMEHOW, I FEEL THOSE OLD LEGENDS ARE TRUE! AND MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO PROVE THEM SOMEDAY!



BUT THE ACID OF THEIR SCORN HAD BURNED TOO DEEPLY! THE NEXT DAY AT DAWN, DR. MARITAIN SLIPPED OUT OF HIS CABIN--

IF THERE IS A LOST CONTINENT, THEN THAT TEMPLE DOWN THERE MAY BE THE CLUE, THE PROOF THAT MY THEORIES ARE CORRECT! I'LL CHECK ON IT NOW, BEFORE THE OTHERS COME ON DECK!





IT WAS TWO YEARS AFTERWARD THAT ANOTHER EXPEDITION WAS DISPATCHED TO THE PACIFIC — WITH BENTON IN CHARGE OF THE NEW PROJECT —

WE SHOULD BE APPROACHING MOLLACCA REEF IN THREE MORE DAYS, MR. BENTON! WE'LL BE ABLE TO START CHARTING THE SHOALS AT ONCE!

THERE'S ANOTHER MATTER I'LL WANT TO ATTEND TO ON OUR WAY TO THE REEF, CAPTAIN!



ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, A STRANGE ISLAND HAS SUDDENLY RISEN OUT OF THE SEA IN THIS AREA! MY ORDERS ARE TO VERIFY THE REPORT IF POSSIBLE!

NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT, SIR! THERE ARE ALWAYS ISLANDS RISING AND SINKING BENEATH THIS PART OF THE PACIFIC!



AND YET THERE WAS SOMETHING EERIE ABOUT THAT MYSTERIOUS ISLAND! FOR WHEN A LANDING PARTY CAME ASHORE —

MR. BENTON, LOOK UP THERE! THAT BUILDING — IT LOOKS LIKE AN ANCIENT TEMPLE!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THIS ISLAND ROSE OUT OF THE SEA JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO!



THEN, SUDDENLY —

HEY, LOOK! THERE'S A MAN COMING OUT OF THAT TEMPLE!

BENTON! I'VE BEEN WAITING — HOPING IT WOULD BE YOU WHO CAME!



AND THEN IT CAME TO BENTON — A TRUTH ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIS MIND TO GRASP —

YOU — WHY, YOU'RE MARITAIN — DR. MARITAIN! AND YET —

YES, I KNOW! I'VE CHANGED, BENTON! CHANGED IN MORE WAYS THAN YOU DREAM OF!



YES, THE PUNY, UNDERSIZED MAN BENTON HAD KNOWN WAS GONE! IN HIS PLACE STOOD A YOUNGER, FAR HANDSOMER DR. MARITAIN — TALL AND SELF-CONFIDENT!

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN THESE PAST TWO YEARS?

I FOUND IT, BENTON — THAT LOST CONTINENT YOU REFUSED TO BELIEVE IN! A VAST, WONDROUS ISLAND BENEATH THE SEA!



A LAND BENEATH THE SEA? BUT HOW COULD ANYONE LIVE AND BREATHE DOWN THERE?

ACTUALLY, ARKA EXISTS IN ANOTHER CORNER OF SPACE AND TIME — AND YET IT IS A WORLD AS REAL AS YOUR OWN! I SHOULD KNOW! I HAVE A WIFE THERE, AND TWO HANDSOME CHILDREN!



IT WAS BEYOND THEIR UNDERSTANDING! THEY COULD ONLY PITY HIM AND YET--

I TELL YOU, BENTON, THE MAN'S MAD! I GUESS BEING ISOLATED ON THIS ISLAND SO LONG DID IT!

BUT HOW DID HE GET HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE? WE'RE A THOUSAND MILES FROM THE SPOT WHERE MARITAIN DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE SEA!



I CAN ANSWER THAT, BENTON! IN ARKA WE HAVE A SCIENCE AS OLD AS TIME! WE HAVE DISCOVERED PHYSICAL LAWS AND VAST POWERS SUCH AS YOU NEVER DREAMED OF!

I'M AFRAID THEY'RE RIGHT, MARITAIN! YOU'VE LOST YOUR WITS HERE ALONE ON THIS ISLAND!



BUT I WASN'T HERE, BENTON! THAT TEMPLE, AS YOU CALL IT, IS THE DOOR TO ARKA--THE WONDROUS LAND I DISCOVERED TEN THOUSAND FEET BELOW THE SEA! THE LAND WHERE WOMEN ARE BEAUTIFUL, AND ALL MEN ARE HANDSOME--AND THE WORLD IS AT PEACE!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING FOR BENTON TO DO: HE HAD TO SHATTER MARITAIN'S ILLUSIONS-- AT ALL COSTS!

SO THAT'S THE ENTRANCE TO YOUR DREAM WORLD, IS IT? OF COURSE, YOU WON'T MIND TAKING ME THROUGH ON A GUIDED TOUR!

NO, WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE! IT IS FORBIDDEN-- EXCEPT TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE!



BENTON HAD REACHED THE VERY DOOR OF THE TEMPLE! IN ANOTHER MOMENT, HE WAS SURE, MARITAIN'S HALLUCINATIONS WOULD BE SHATTERED FOREVER! BUT THEN SUDDENLY, FEARFULLY, THE ISLAND BEGAN TO MOVE BENEATH THEM--

IT'S SINKING! IT'S GOING DOWN BENEATH THE SEA AGAIN!



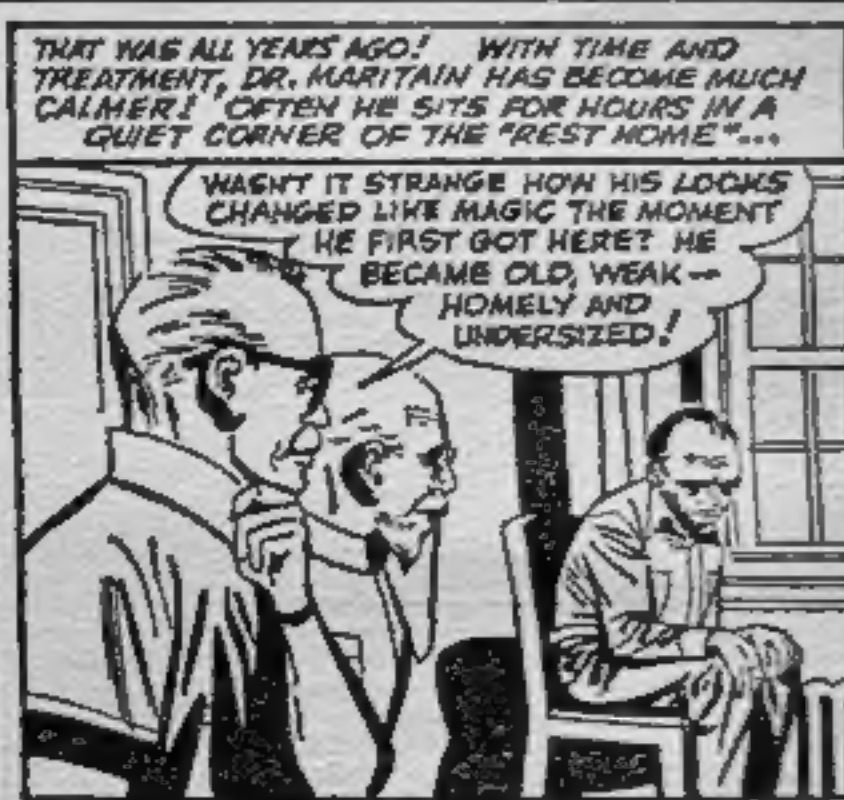
QUICK, MARITAIN, HEAD FOR THE BOATS! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO FEAR, BENTON!



I ONLY EMERGED FROM ARKA TO LET THE WORLD KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, AND WHAT WONDERS LIE WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL WHO WILL BELIEVE! AND NOW THAT MY TASK IS DONE, I WILL RETURN TO ARKA!





THE *ETERNAL* HUNTER!







HAVING WON THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST COSTUME THE RELUCTANT PAUL WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE HYPNOTIST'S SUBJECT--

OH, COME NOW SIR--BE A GOOD SPORT! I SIMPLY WISH TO PROVE MY THEORY THAT THE MIND NEVER FORGETS ANYTHING! UNDER HYPNOSIS I'LL MAKE YOU DREDGE UP YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES--GOING BACK TO THE CRADLE!



FIVE MINUTES LATER PAUL WAS UNDER DEEP HYPNOSIS --



AS THE LARGE CROWD LISTENED IN AMAZEMENT--



WHEN PAUL WAS REYNED AND TOLD WHAT HAPPENED, HE WAS MORE CONFUSED THAN ANYONE -

COME NOW G R YOU MUST HAVE READ A GREAT DEAL ABOUT INDIAN LIFE!

NOT A WORD! I - I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT!



ON THE WAY HOME HE WAS UNUSUALLY SILENT

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU DARLING ARE YOU SURE YOU WERE HYPHOTIZED?...THAT YOU WERENT JOKING?

QUITE SURE I'M WORRIED TOO AND JUST A BIT SCARED!



IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT -

NO! NO! HURL YOUR SPEARS! IT'S CHARGING!

PAUL, WAKE UP! YOU'RE SCREAMING!



THE NIGHTMARE IT WAS HORRIBLE! A WILD PLAINS TIGER WAS CHARGING IT WAS ALL SO REAL!

PUT ALL THIS FROM YOUR MIND, DEAREST... TRY TO REST!



NEXT MORNING HE SLEPT QUITE LATE! AS LINDA PREPARED BREAKFAST, PAUL ENTERED THE ROOM LIKE A SLEEPWALKER SAT DOWN WITH GLASSY EYES

ANYTHING WRONG, DARLING? YOU'RE... FRIGHTENING ME!

FOOD - NO TASTE GOOD!



SEIZING A FROZEN CHICKEN FROM THE REFRIGERATOR AND AN IRON KETTLE, HE STALKED GRIMLY INTO THE GARDEN -

PAUL! PAUL! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?

FETCH SMALL STONES AND WOOD, WOMAN! MAKE FIRE!

LIGHTING A FIRE IN SILENCE, PAUL HEATED THE SMALL STONES AND DROPPED THEM INTO THE KETTLE OF WATER -

SOON BOIL - COOK CHICKEN!

HE... HE'S LOST HIS SENSES!



AS LINDA WATCHED THE WEIRD
TO BOIL WITH THE CHICKEN COOKED
PAUL BEGAN TO EAT WITH GREAT
DELIGHT. UNTIL SUDDENLY --

WHAT THE---? WHAT
AM I DOING OUT HERE?

Y--YOU WERE IN A
TRANCE A HORRIBLE
TRANCE!



AFTER
EXPLAINING
THE WHOLE
MATTER
TO THE
PROFESSOR
OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS--

ASTONISHING! THE INDIANS OF OLD
DIDN'T BOIL WATER OVER A FIRE--
NO, THEY DROPPED HOT STONES
INTO KETTLES AS YOU DID! BUT NOW
DID YOU KNOW THAT? AND
WHAT ABOUT THAT
TRANCE?

I--I DON'T
KNOW!



SOON PAUL HAD RECURRENT NIGHTMARES, FREQUENT TRANCES VISITING OFTEN AT THE
INDIAN WING OF THE CITY MUSEUM, HE SEEMED TO BE LOSING CONTACT
WITH REALITY--



ONCE WE WERE
A GREAT PEOPLE
OF THE PLAINS!
NOW THE GLORY
OF THE RED MAN
IS GONE.

AT LAST, HE FORMED A DESPERATE PLAN--

I WON'T LET YOU DO
IT, PAUL--IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS!

I'VE GOT TO! IT'S THE ONLY WAY
TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT'S
BEEN HAPPENING TO ME! THE
HYPNOTIST WILL BE HERE
TONIGHT!



NOTHING COULD
DISSUADE HIM--

I WANT YOU TO HYPNOTIZE
ME AGAIN AND FOCUS MY
MIND ON MY EARLIEST
MEMORIES! THIS TIME
I WANT TO KEEP TALK-
ING AND TALKING!

ALL RIGHT!
SIT DOWN,
PLEASE!



PAUL
SUCCEEDED
MORE
QUICKLY
THIS TIME,
AND MUCH
MORE
PROFUNDLY.

GREAT SCOTT! HE
DOESN'T EVEN HEAR
ME ANY MORE! HE'S
NOT RESPONDING TO
MY QUESTIONS!

SHAP HIM OUT
OF IT! REWIND
HIM! QUICK!



BUT DESPITE ALL THE HYPNOTIST'S EFFORTS--

I--I CAN'T BRING HIM
AROUND! I'VE NEVER SEEN
SUCH A DEEP TRANCE!

WE'VE GOT TO
DO SOMETHING!
LOOK AT HOW HE'S
STARING! WHAT'S
GOING ON IN HIS
MIND? WHAT'S HE
EVERYTHING?



WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE HYPNOTIZED MAN'S MIND? THE ROOTS OF HIS BRAIN SANK DEEP INTO ANCIENT MEMORIES... MEMORIES OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE!

THE BRAVES ARE EAGER FOR THE HUNT CHIEF KACHONO!

YES... BUT FIRST WE MUST PRAY TO OUR GODS FOR GOOD FORTUNE!

IN A HILLSIDE CAVE HEWN OUT OF SOLID ROCK...

HEAR US, MIGHTY SPIRITS! FAVOR US WITH PLENTIFUL MEAT... MAKE OUR ARMS STRONG!

SURROUNDED BY STATUES OF THE ANIMALS THEY HUNTED THE WILD HORSE, THE CAMEL, THE ELEPHANT AND THE FIERCE PLAINS TIGER

THE SPIRITS HAVE HEARD OUR PRAYER! LET US GO FORTH!

HOURS LATER...

LOOK! TIGER!

EACH MAN KNOWS WHAT TO DO! GO!

THE FIERCE BEAST TOOK A GRIM TOLL OF THE PRIMITIVE HUNTERS' AT LAST BROUGHT TO BAY...

STAND YOUR GROUND!

IT'S GOING TO CHARGE! FLEE!

WHILE THE OTHERS BROKE IN PANIC, ONE MAN REMAINED TO FACE THE BEAST'S ONSLAUGHT ALONE...

MY RIGHT ARM IS TRUE!

AAARGH!

THAT NIGHT, AS THE TRIBE CELEBRATED THE KILL...

HAIL TO OUR CHIEF... GREAT KACHONO! HIS IS THE HEART OF THE HUNTER... HE KNOWS NO FEAR!

LONG MAY OUR CHIEF LIVE!



BUT AS THE TRIBE FEASTED AND MADE MERRY, A MAN FELL SUDDENLY ILL...

OHNNH...

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM? HIS SKIN IS BURNING!

BY THE FOLLOWING MORNING A PLAGUE HAD STRUCK...

MY PEOPLE FALL LIKE FLIES! CAN YOU NOT SAVE THEM?

THE SPIRITS ARE ANGRY WITH US! BUT WHY?



WITHIN DAYS NEARLY THE WHOLE TRIBE HAD PERISHED! THE CHIEF, HIMSELF STRUCK WITH THE PLAGUE, STUMBLING UP TOWARD THE ROCKY CAVE...

THE GODS MUST BE APPEASED! IF NOT - WE ARE DOOMED!



HE BARELY MADE IT...

RELENT... MIGHTY SPIRITS! WE... WE... OHNNH! ALL GOES D'M BEFORE MY EYES... MY HOUR HAS COME...



LOOK! HE'S STIRRING! HE'S SNAPPING OUT OF IT!

THANK HEAVENS!



SHAKEN BY HIS EXPERIENCE PAUL TOLD THEM EVERYTHING...

I'M SURE THOSE MEMORIES WERE REAL... THAT EVERYTHING I SAW IN THE TRANCE REALLY TOOK PLACE!

YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT, DARLING! YOUR MIND IS DISORDERED!



I'M GOING TO PROVE I'M PERFECTLY SANE! THE CAVE WAS SET OFF... BY TWO SPIRES OF ROCK - AND I'M GOING TO FIND THEM! THAT WILL PROVE THAT INDIANS ROAMED THE PLAINS WHEN THE EXTINCT BEASTS STILL EXISTED!

FOR MONTHS PAUL AND ALICE
ROAMED EVERYWHERE IN THE
WEST SEARCHING, SEARCHING...

HOW LONG ARE YOU
GOING TO CONTINUE
THIS CRAZY QUEST?

IF NECESSARY
-- FOREVER!
AND I DON'T
CARE IF IT
TAKES EVERY
CENT I'VE
GOT!



AS MORE MONTHS PASSED...

HE'S CHANGED SO MUCH! HE'S
NO LONGER A PLAYBOY... BUT
A DEDICATED MAN! IF HE IS
CRAZY... HE SURE DOESN'T
ACT IT!

HOLD
IT!



THEY HAD REACHED A REMOTE PART OF THE
DAKOTAS, AND FOR DAYS PAUL HAD BEEN
GROWING MORE AND MORE PREOCCUPIED...

WHAT
IS IT,
DARLING?

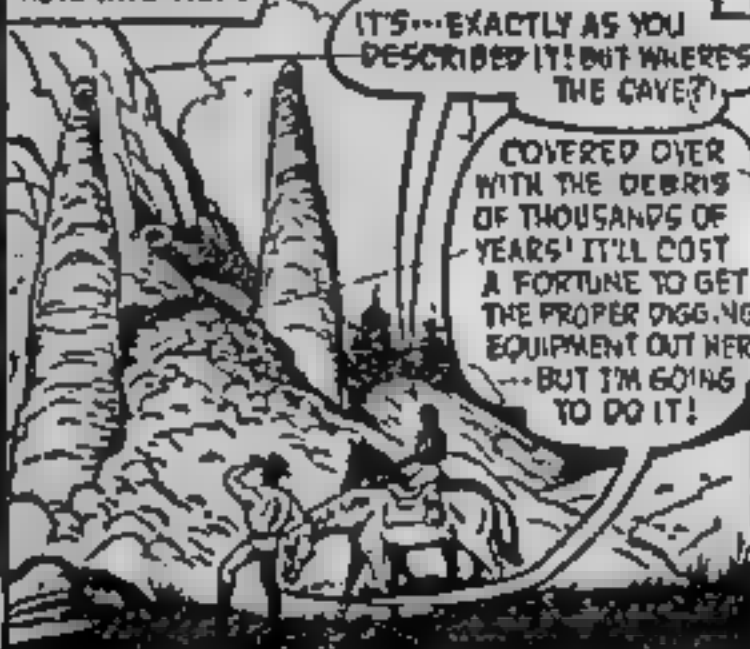
I -- DON'T KNOW!
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT
THIS TERRAIN THAT'S
FAMILIAR!



HOURS LATER, THE TWIN ROCK SPIRES
HOVE INTO VIEW!

IT'S... EXACTLY AS YOU
DESCRIBED IT! BUT WHERE'S
THE CAVE?

COVERED OVER
WITH THE DEBRIS
OF THOUSANDS OF
YEARS! IT'LL COST
A FORTUNE TO GET
THE PROPER DIGGING
EQUIPMENT OUT HERE
-- BUT I'M GOING
TO DO IT!



MONTHS
AFTERWARDS--

WE'VE STRUCK
THROUGH TO A
CAVE OF SOME
SORT!

OH, PAUL... I
-- I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!



WITHIN... FANTASTIC PROOF!

THE SKELETON OF A...
PREHISTORIC TIGER!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW
RELIEVED I AM! DARLING,
DO YOU KNOW WHAT
THIS MEANS?



FROM NOW ON I'M DEVOTING MY LIFE TO A
DIFFERENT KIND OF HUNT - THE HUNT OF
THE ARCHEOLOGIST! I'M GOING TO
SPECIALIZE IN THE LIFE OF THE EARLY
AMERICAN INDIAN!

I'VE GOT A FEELING
YOU'LL SOMEDAY BE THE
WORLD'S FOREMOST
AUTHORITY... I MEAN, THE
CHIEF AUTHORITY!



BINOCULARS *and* a TIGER!









YOU...YOU SAVED MY LIFE! IT'S AS IF...FATE...SENT YOU TO ME!

CAN I TAKE YOU TO DINNER, MISS? I THINK WE'D BETTER HAVE A LONG, LONG TALK!



LOOK BOB, YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED HOW...

CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER! I ACTUALLY SAW SOMETHING HAPPEN BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE! I HAD A MOMENT OF CLAIRVOYANCE! IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT SOME CHECKING UP TO DO...



BACK IN HIS APARTMENT CLARK SEARCHED FRANTICALLY FOR THE BINOCULARS... TO NO AVAIL! AND THE BUTLER KEPT HIS STING ON WHAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE...

YOU DID, I TELL

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CAN MEAN SIR! I DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY PACKAGE FROM GERMANY THIS MORNING! HOW CAN YOU SAY I DID?

YOU...YOU DID! THEY'VE GOT TO BE AROUND HERE!



NO BINOCULARS...AND THE BUTLER STUCK BY HIS STORY! CLARK SPENT HOURS LOST IN DEEP THOUGHT...

WAS THE WHOLE THING A HALLUCINATION? IMPOSSIBLE! I SAW INTO THE FUTURE... THAT MUCH IS CLEAR! BUT WHY SHOULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?



THAT NIGHT OVER DINNER, HE TOLD THE GIRL THE WHOLE STORY! HER EXPRESSION GREW EVER MORE INCREDULOUS...

IT'S...UNBELIEVABLE...BUT YET, IT'S GOT TO BE THE EXPLANATION! CLARK...I HAD A BROTHER WHO WENT INTO BUSINESS IN GERMANY... MAKING BINOCULARS! BUT HE DIED THREE YEARS AGO!

WHA-A AT!



THEY WERE SILENT A LONG TIME...UNTIL AT LAST...

REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID THIS AFTERNOON...ABOUT FATE THROWING US TOGETHER? DO YOU BELIEVE IN...LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

NO...BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT LOVE AT SECOND SIGHT! CLARK, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS ANY MORE! WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME?



SOMEHOW, EACH FELT VERY DEEPLY THAT THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A LONG, LONG RELATIONSHIP... ONE WHICH WOULD BE PERMANENT...

I DON'T NEED A CRYSTAL BALL TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE! I SEE YOU IN IT...ONLY YOU...

THAT'S JUST WHAT--I WAS THINKING!

CF

END

***THE* MAN-HUNTERS**

THIS IS THE FUTURE! MAN HAS LEARNED TO MANUFACTURE HUMANIDS, PERFECT LIVING HUMANS, THEIR ABILITIES FOR SPECIFIC JOBS IMPLANTED BY THEIR MAN-MADE GENES! IN THE VATS YOU SEE IN THIS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED HUMANOID PLANT, NEW HUMANIDS ARE BEING MADE!



THIS IS THE NURSERY WHERE THE PERFECT BABY HUMANIDS ARE SCIENTIFICALLY CARED FOR...



AT THE BEGINNING THESE PSEUDO-HUMANS WERE NOT MARKED AND THEY MOVED AMONGST TRUE HUMANS WITHOUT RECOGNITION, FOR THEY WERE, IN EVERY WAY, BROTHERS TO MANKIND...

I'VE HEARD THAT MARK'S SECRETARY IS A HUMANOID!

IS THAT SO? I WONDER IF MARK KNOWS?



BUT AS MORE OF THE HUMANOIDS WERE MANUFACTURED TO FIT THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR WORKERS, TRUE HUMANS CLAMORED FOR A LAW TO BE PASSED TO TATTOO THE HUMANOID, AND THE LAW WAS PASSED!



IT WAS AN ERA OF PLENTY FOR TRUE HUMANS! THE HUMANOIDS DID ALL THE TASKS PERFECTLY AND MAN BECAME A RACE SEEKING PLEASURE AND EASE!

YES, THEY ARE PERFECT, THESE HUMANOID! PERHAPS TOO PERFECT! WITH HUMANOID IN COMPLETE CHARGE OF MY FACTORIES, I HAVE NO WORRIES! THEY NEVER MAKE MISTAKES...THEY NEVER CHEAT!



SOON THE HUMANOIDS TOOK OVER ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT HAD BEEN MAN'S AND A MURMUR WAS HEARD AMONGST RESPONSIBLE HUMANS... A MURMUR THAT GREW WITH TIME INTO A SHOUTED ROAR!

WE'VE BECOME PUPPETS OF THE HUMANOID!

WE WANT OUR JOBS BACK! WE'RE TIRED OF EASE... WE'RE DEGENERATING!



MEETINGS WERE HELD IN GREAT HALLS...



IT IS MY SAD DUTY TO TELL YOU THAT EVEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE HUMANOID! UNLESS WE STRIKE, OUR HERITAGE AS LEADERS OF THIS EARTH WILL PERISH AND THE FUTURE OF MANKIND WILL BE DESTROYED!

SO MANKIND Banded TOGETHER AGAINST THE HUMANOID AND CAPTAIN CLARK BUCHAN WAS NAMED THEIR LEADER...

AS YOU KNOW, THE FIRST HUMANOID WERE NOT MARKED! THEREFORE, I MUST KEEP MY ACTIVITIES SECRET FOR WE WILL NEVER KNOW WHERE SPIES MIGHT BE! MY FIRST JOB WILL BE TO DESTROY THE HUMANOID MANUFACTURING VATS!

A HUMANOID AMBASSADOR IS HERE AND DEMANDS TO BE HEARD!



I HAVE COME TO SPEAK FOR MY PEOPLE!



YOU TURN ON US FOR THE VERY REASON YOU MADE US! WE DO NOT WISH TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU! BOTH RACES, TRUE HUMANS AND HUMANOID, CAN LIVE SIDE BY SIDE IN PEACE!



THE CAPTAIN REMEMBERED HIS PARENTS AND TO HIM THIS PERFECT CREATURE, BORN WITHOUT PARENTS, WAS A DISGRACE TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE TWO HE LOVED SO WELL...

IT IS TOO LATE FOR PLEAS! WHAT HAS BEEN DONE MUST BE CORRECTED BY DRASTIC MEASURES TO INSURE THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF MANKIND!



SHOW THIS HUMANOID OUT! ALL THAT CAN BE SAID HAS BEEN SAID!



HE COULD NOT GRANT THEM LENIENCY, FOR HE WAS DRIVEN BY HIS INNER NEED AS A TRUE HUMAN TO BE DOMINANT AND THEREFORE TO ELIMINATE THESE MORE PERFECT REPLICAS OF MAN!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION! I AM BEGINNING MY CAMPAIGN TO BRING MANKIND TO HIS FORMER EMINENCE!



THE GOVERNMENT MANUFACTURING VATS WERE DESTROYED AS THE FIRST STEP IN CAPTAIN BUCHAN'S CAMPAIGN...

CAPTAIN, THE RECORDS ARE MISSING!

THAT'S BAD! WE NEED THOSE RECORDS SO WE CAN HAVE ALL THE DATA ON EVERY HUMANOID EVER MANUFACTURED... SO WE CAN TRACE THOSE EARLY ONES THAT WEREN'T MARKED!

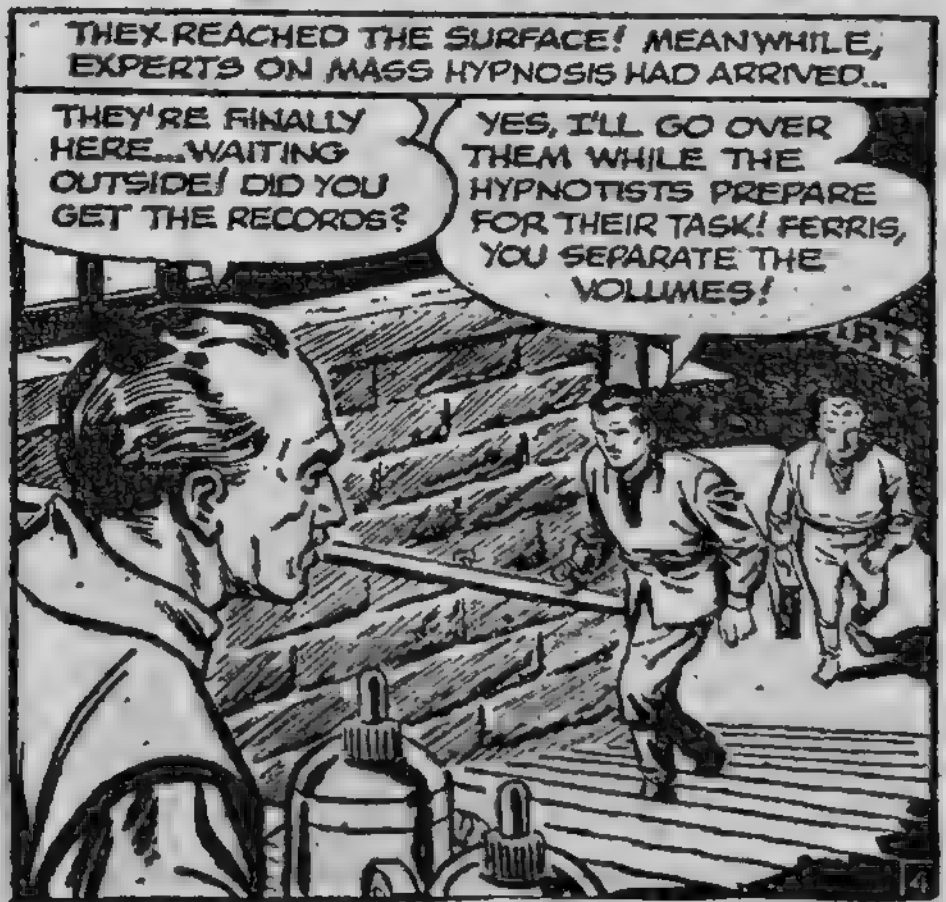
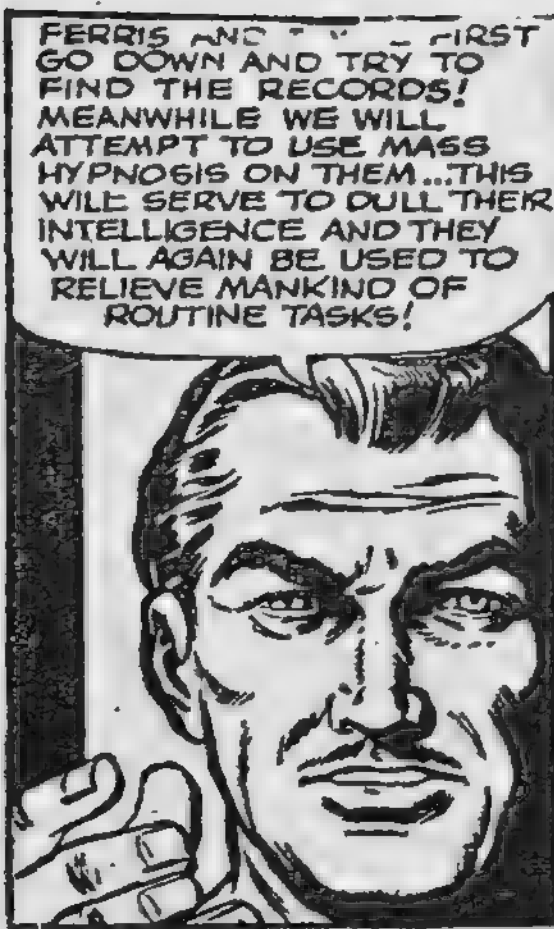


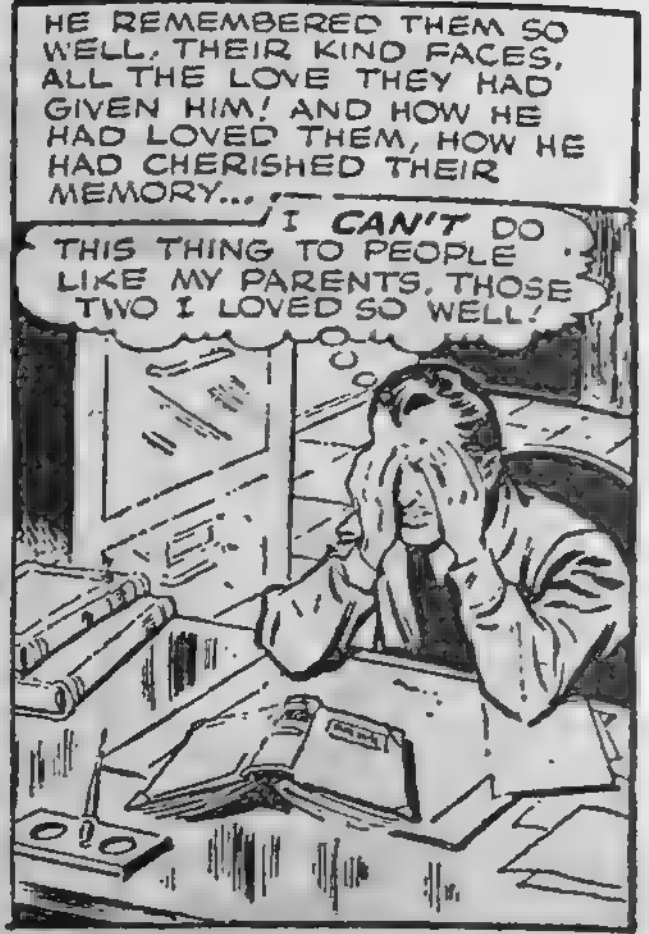
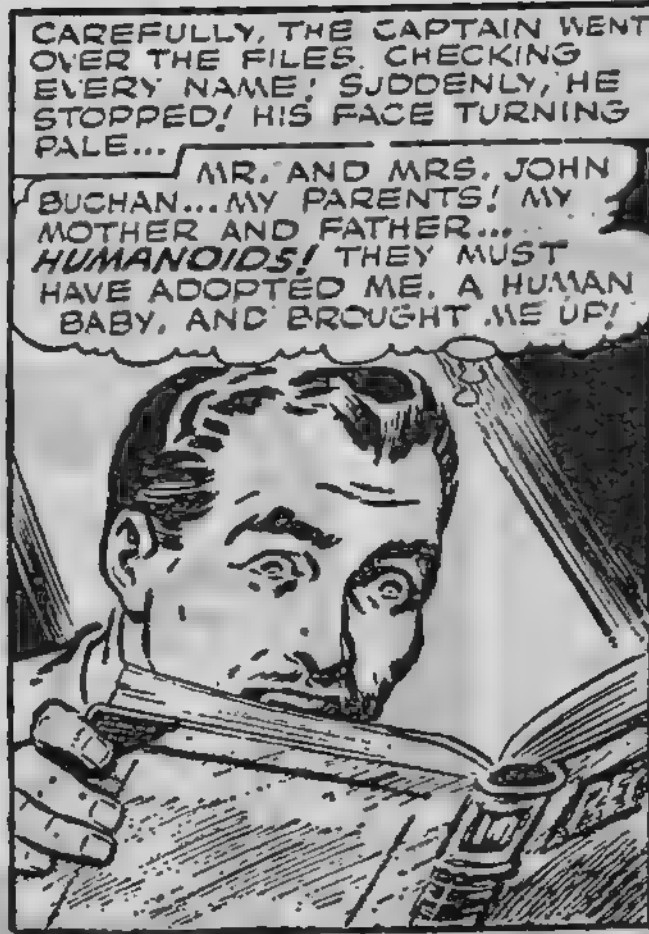
OUTNUMBERED AND WANTING NO VIOLENCE, THE HUMANOIDS FLED FAR BENEATH THE EARTH INTO OLD FORGOTTEN SUBWAYS OF THE PAST...



HERE THEY SET UP THEIR OWN HUMANOID VATS TO REPRODUCE THEIR KIND, SO THAT IN TIME THEY WOULD EQUAL THE NUMBERS OF THE TRUE HUMANS AND SO MEET ON EQUAL TERMS TO TALK PEACE!







Annals of the Occult

SKEPTICS DOUBT ALL EVIDENCES OF THE SUPERNATURAL! EVERYTHING, THEY SAY, CAN BE EXPLAINED COMPLETELY BY SCIENCE! MAYBE -- BUT LET'S EXPLORE THE ANNALS OF THE OCCULT -- AND DELVE INTO THE CASE OF LITTLE ROY HEDDEN -- NOW GROWN AND LIVING IN PORTLAND, OREGON...



AT THE BEGINNING, HE SEEMED LIKE ANY OTHER NORMAL INFANT TO HIS PROUD PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. JAMES HEDDEN --

JUST ASK ME AND I'LL ADMIT HE'S GOING TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!

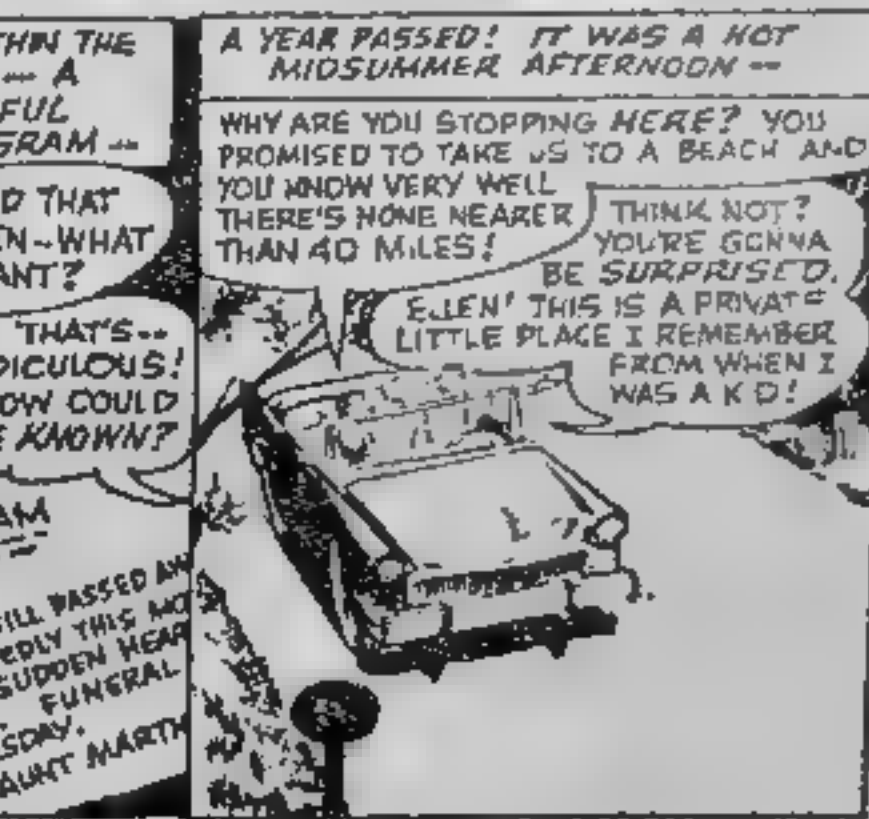
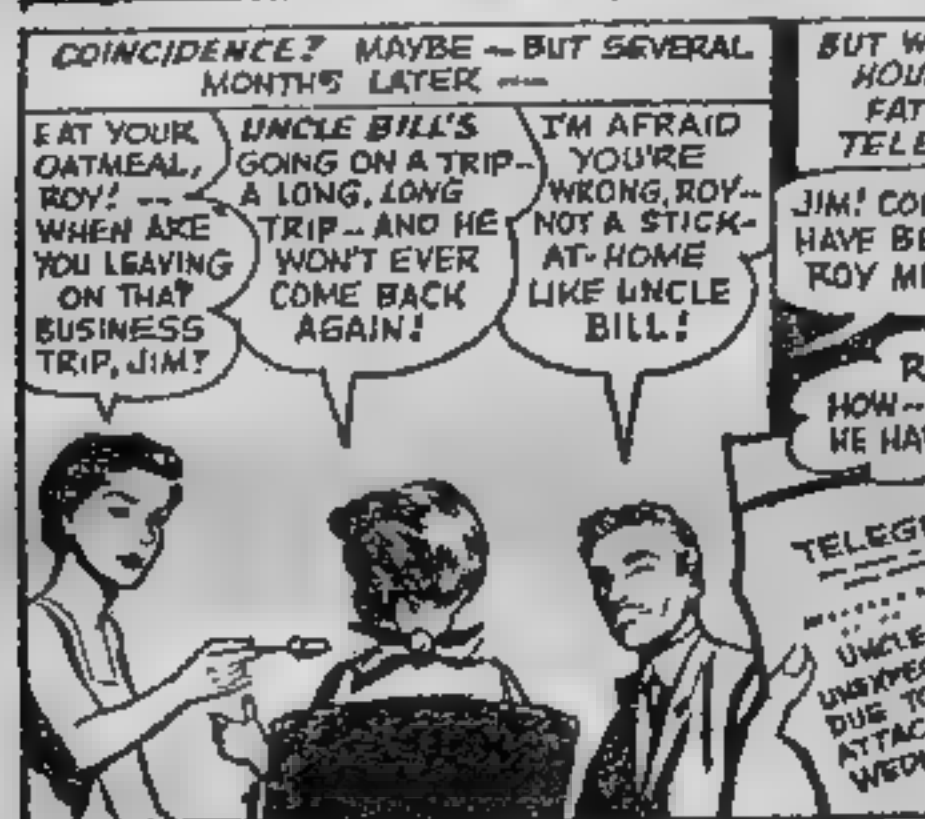
OH, JIM, BE REASONABLE! I'LL BE SATISFIED IF HE DOESN'T GET ANY FURTHER THAN BEING GOVERNOR!

HE WAS ALMOST THREE WHEN THEY STARTED TO OBSERVE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM --

GRANDMA'S COMING! SHE'S FLYING ON A BIG BIRD --

NOW, NOW, ROY! I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT GRANDMA'S IN EUROPE -- AND SHE WON'T BE BACK FOR TWO YEARS!







BY THE WAY, HAS THIS PLACE GOT A NAME?

IT'S CALLED BEAR POINT INLET! MY FOLKS WOULDN'T LET ME COME HERE AS A YOUNGSTER - YOU SEE, THE TIDE COMES IN FAST AT FIVE O'CLOCK EVERY DAY, AND ANYBODY WHO WAS HERE WOULD STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING TRAPPED!



NOW SEVERAL MONTHS WENT BY, AND BEAR POINT INLET WAS FORGOTTEN! IT WAS A SATURDAY IN OCTOBER, AND MRS. HEDDEN HAD REASON FOR WORRY--

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! JIM SHOULD HAVE BEEN BACK FROM TOWN HOURS AGO! MAYBE I'D BETTER - CALL THE POLICE!



THAT WAS A MRS. HEDDEN, OUT WILBUR ROAD WAY! SHE'S WORRIED SICK BECAUSE HER HUSBAND HASN'T SHOWN UP - WE BETTER GO OUT THERE AND LOOK INTO IT!



THERE WASN'T A CLUE TO JIM HEDDEN'S DISAPPEARANCE--

NO PLACE HE COULD HAVE GONE, EH?

NO! I TELEPHONED AND FOUND OUT HE'D BEEN IN TOWN, BUT LEFT TO COME BACK A LONG TIME AGO! I--I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM--

BEAR, MOMMY-- BEAR!



WHEN THEY PAID NO ATTENTION TO LITTLE ROY, HE GREW STRANGELY AGITATED--

PLEASE, ROY, BE QUIET-- THERE AREN'T ANY BEARS AROUND HERE TO EAT DADDY!

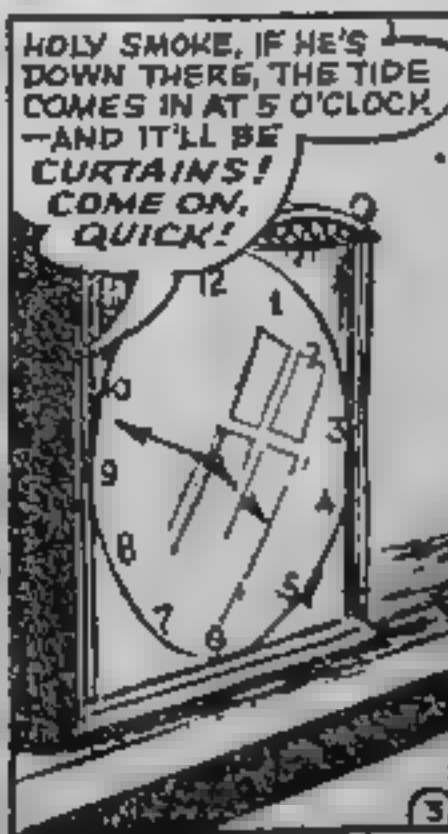
NO, NO--NOT THAT KIND OF BEAR, MOMMY! IT WAS HOT AND THERE WAS WATER THERE--



THEN THE MEMORY CAME TO HER--

I--I THINK I KNOW NOW! HE MUST MEAN BEAR POINT INLET! BUT THAT COULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH--

HEY, THAT'S ALONG THE ROAD HE'D HAVE TO TRAVEL COMIN' FROM TOWN! AND JUST SUPPOSE HIS CAR WENT OFF THE ROAD!

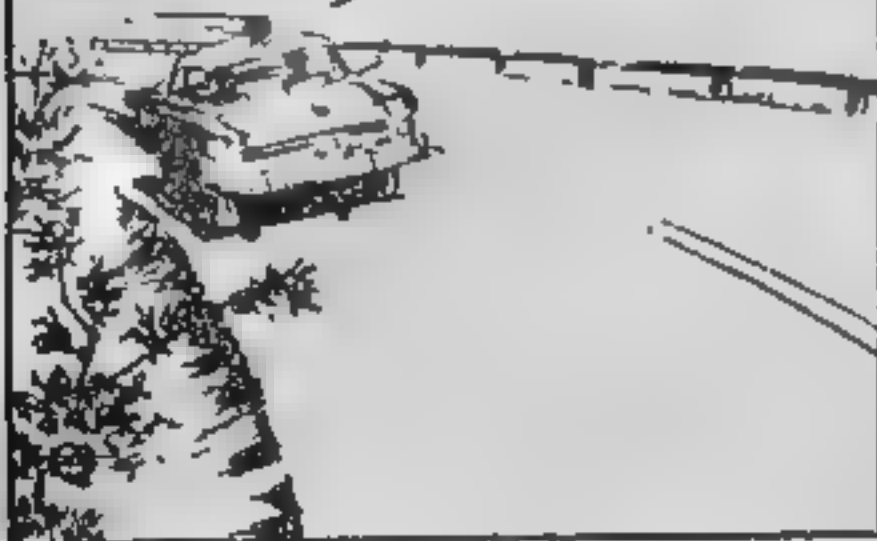


HOLY SMOKE, IF HE'S DOWN THERE, THE TIDE COMES IN AT 5 O'CLOCK--AND IT'LL BE CURTAINS! COME ON, QUICK!

IT WAS A MAD RACE
AGAINST TIME --

FASTER!--
THERE ISN'T
A SECOND
TO SPARE!

WOO-OOOO!



LOOK AT THESE SH D MARKS -- AND
THE BROKEN FOLIAGE! A CAR
WENT OFF THE ROAD
HERE, ALL RIGHT!



LOOK! THERE IT
IS -- AND THE WATER'S
COMING IN FAST!

JIM! WE--WE'VE
GOT TO GET DOWN
THERE--WHILE
THERE'S STILL
A CHANCE--



THANK HEAVENS--
YOU GOT HERE--
I'M -- CAUGHT--

GET THE JACK--
QUICK!



JUST IN TIME, THE INJURED
MAN WAS RELEASED --

THAT DOES IT!
NOW LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE--
BEFORE WE ALL
DROWN!



NEXT DAY -- AT THE HOSPITAL --

HE--HE DOESN'T KNOW
IT, ELLEN-- BUT I OWE
MY LIFE TO HIM!

TO SOMETHING
STRANGE WITHIN
HIM-- A SECOND
SIGHT!



SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION--OR SUPER-
NATURAL? WHAT DO YOU THINK, READER?

THE END

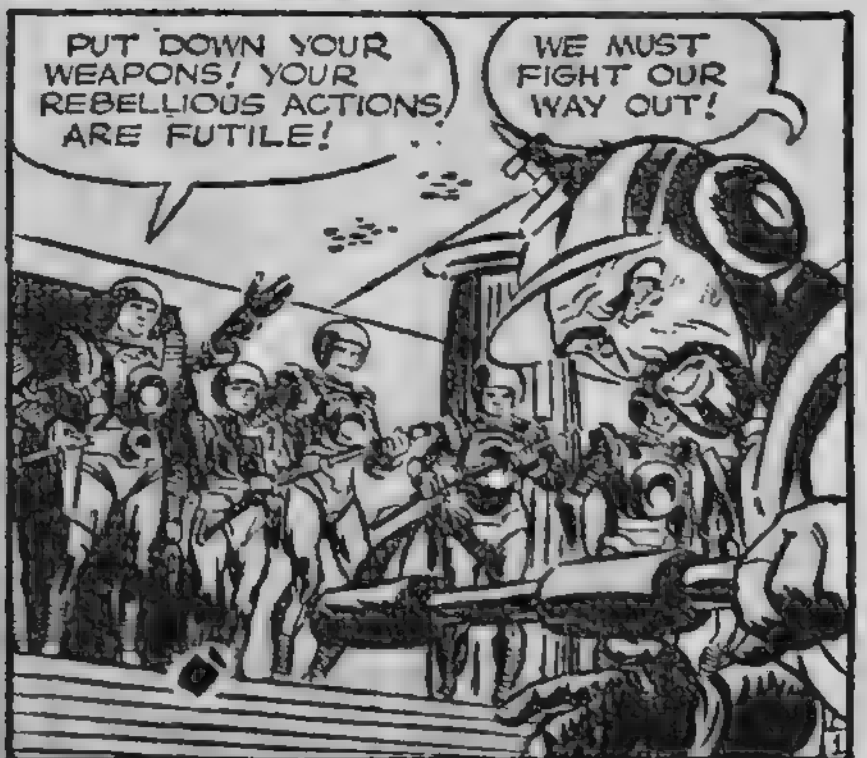
TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE SUPREME COORDINATOR...TO CONQUER HIM...THIS WAS THE DOMINATING PASSION IN REX VALANCE'S LIFE...TO DESTROY...

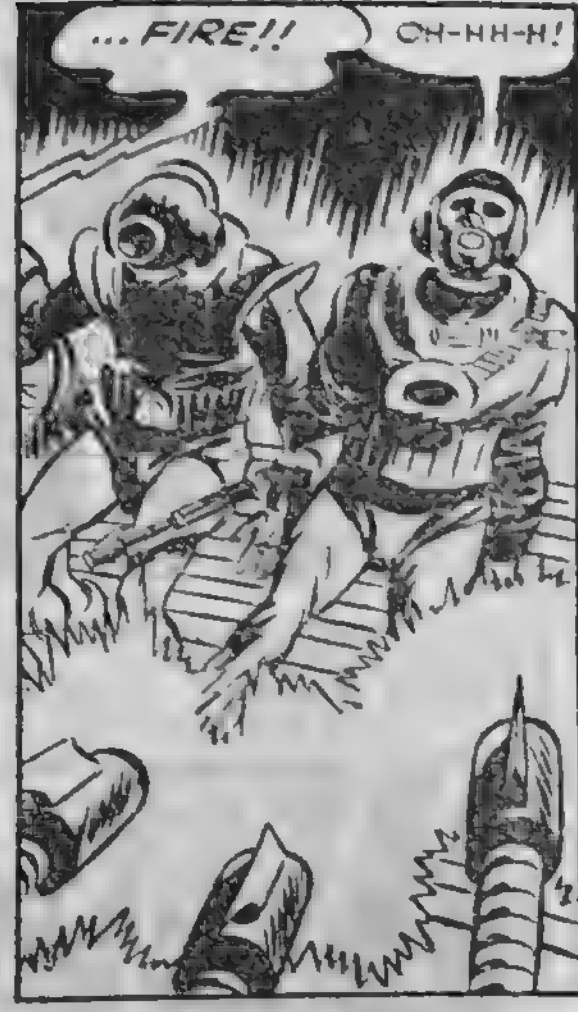
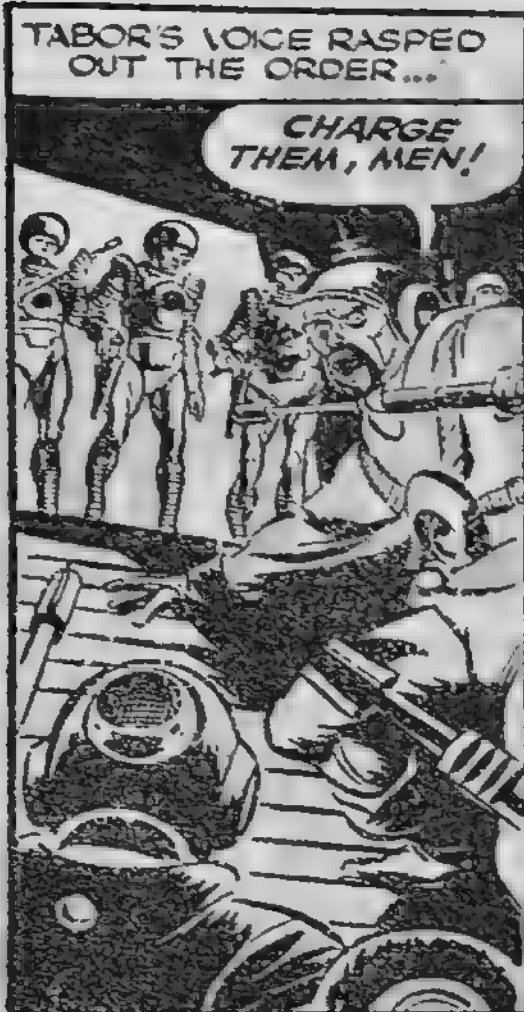
THE MAN WHO COULDN'T BE REACHED!

WHILE MEN LIVED AND WORKED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SUPREME COORDINATOR, SECRET GROUPS SPRANG UP EVERYWHERE TO DEFY HIM...



...ONLY TO BE FOUND OUT AND CAPTURED!





AND WHILE THE BITTER REALIZATION OF FAILURE DESCENDED ON HIM, REX VALANCE THOUGHT BACK OVER HIS LONG-STANDING FEUD WITH HIS ARCH-ENEMY...

HE IS BRILLIANT AND SUBTLE...



...ABLE TO MANAGE THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF OUR SOCIETY...



...COMBINING THE INTELLECT OF A SCIENTIST WITH THE CRAFT AND STRATEGY OF A GENERAL!



YET, I CAN'T GIVE UP HOPE... I MUST OUTWIT HIM!



I-I MUST FIGHT HIM AND WORK AGAINST HIM IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY!



I AM DRIVEN BY A FORCE STRONGER THAN MYSELF!



BUT CAN I SUCCEED WHERE SO MANY HAVE FAILED?



I'VE MET MEN, WHO COMMANDED REBEL GROUPS...



...WHO TRIED TO GET TO THE COORDINATOR...



...AND WHO WERE FINALLY NULLIFIED!



I MUST ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE!

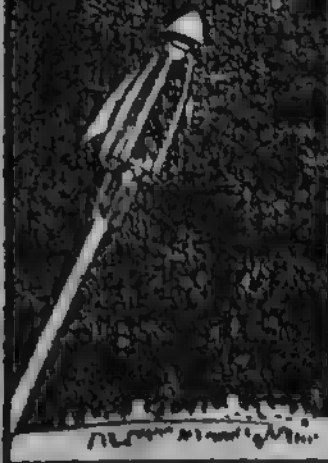


I MUST FIGHT HIM... ALONE!



WITH COMING NIGHT, REX VALANCE LEFT HIS HIDE-OUT..

ALL LEADS POINT TO HIS CONTROL TOWER IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY!



GAIN ACCESS TO THAT, AND I'LL HAVE WON HALF THE BATTLE!





SUDDENLY, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A MAZE OF PASSAGEWAYS LEADING IN ALL DIRECTIONS...



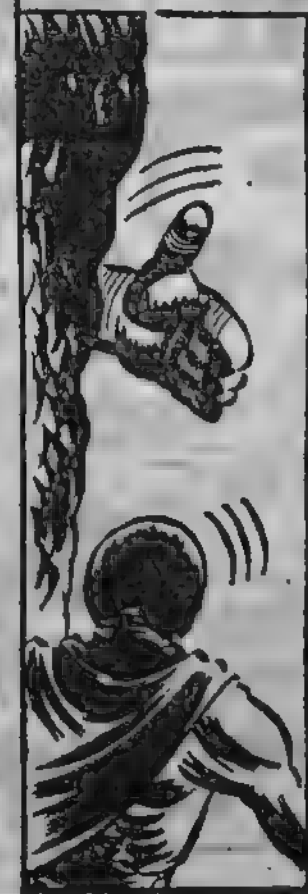
BUT AS HE NEARED THE END OF THE CORRIDOR...



A FEW MOMENTS OF ADJUSTING HIS VOICE COMMANDS, AND...



BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE WAS...



FROM EARTH TO SPACE GEOGRAPHY

In those good old days — about which certain people at once get a sickening feel of nostalgia — I began to teach the subject of Geography to the youth of this country. It was of course limited to this planet of ours, which helped to make things simple and sort of easy for teacher. A Moon, a Sun, and other planets did exist. But from the viewpoint of the children they didn't play too much of a part on our lives.

It was little Elaine who in my first year of teaching Geography set me right about the relative importance of the Moon and the Sun.

"The Moon is more important to us than the Sun," she explained to the class. "The Sun comes out in the daytime when we don't need it because it is bright. But the Moon comes out in the nighttime when it is dark and helps us see things."

About two years later I learned of the great contribution to mankind of the planets. I think it was Paul who told us about Venus, Mars, and the rest of those orbits in the sky.

"Without planets we've got no Horoscope," he wrote in his examination paper. "Without a Horoscope we can't tell the future. Without a future we've got nothing."

I did learn things from my students. One was to speak very clearly. Especially after a girl wrote on her examination paper: "The Equator is an Imaginary Lion that runs around the Earth." And also the tragic fact that while one of my boys could tell you how to get to London — he got lost in his own home city.

The classroom was decorated with home made maps. It was the assistant principal who examined the second map over the blackboard on a Friday afternoon and made a remarkable discovery.

"Your young map maker made a mistake and placed Turkey next to France."

My face turned a bit red and then we talked about other matters, especially the forthcoming visit of the Assistant Superintendent who would check my teaching. His technique was simple. He would question the students row by row. And when he finally arrived I wasn't too much worried. He did everything in ten minutes. The first row recited on the countries of Europe; The Second row recited on the countries of Asia; and they showed a good knowledge — at least to his satisfaction — of Geography. So I was marked "S" and all was well.

Classes came and went and the same Geography was handed on from one group to another. Then certain events took place to disturb the peaceful era of repetitious teaching. Mankind fought and there were bitter wars. When finished, the map makers had to produce new maps for the Geography classes. Some countries vanished. Others got either smaller or bigger. But still it was an Earthbound Geography.

Then scientists began to accelerate the rate at which they were finding new products and making substitutes for standard items used by people. Once you could have taught that Rubber came from Brazil and later most of it came from Malaya. The United States had no rubber. But now we were producing synthetic rubber and it was rubber. We didn't produce silk. That we imported from Japan. But with rayon, nylon, and dacron we were pushing the sales of silk down and down. We were using a silk substitute and more and more people were buying it.

Suddenly Geography found itself in the Atomic Age. So we have submarines and ships that can travel a long distance without the need of constant refueling. And electric power plants fueled by atomic piles would create power any place in the world. From the desert sands of

Africa to the large wastelands of the Arctic changes would be made on the face of this world. But still we were Earthbound.

I rode in a horse drawn carriage — then in an automobile — all on earth. So perhaps I can be forgiven if I do marvel at what the Space Era is doing since I still am teaching Geography. Consider the matter of explorations. Children as well as adults do enjoy reading the adventures of those brave souls who went into unknown territories.

Whether it be in Darkest Africa, the cold Arctic, or Antarctic Regions, or even beneath the sea, these were human beings looking for something beyond the vanishing frontiers on this Earth. Then suddenly we have unlimited space thrown open for exploration. There was a time when about the only science fiction for children in my classes were the works of Jules Verne. But we always had to admonish the youngsters that this was "only imaginary."

Today we have a Space Administration in this country. We are no longer Earthbound. Not in fiction—but in reality—we are starting to reach out for the unlimited area of outer space. We have even selected the fit group of men who will be shot up in a nose cone and then recovered.

But at present and perhaps for some time to come, a lot of our exploration into outer space will not be done by human beings but by scientific instruments. The satellites already launched have carried a variety of devices to give us better and more exact knowledge of outer space. At present we plan to place a small seismograph on the moon within six years to measure moonquakes and to answer age old questions about the composition and origin of the moon.

Not through a human being but through a small machine if you want to call it that—we may expect to learn the kind of rock which composes the main body of the moon, whether or not any of it is molten, whether spontaneous fractures occur on the moon to cause the quakes, details of the coating of dust and rubble and and very complete information about the distribution in size and velocity of meteoric particles in space.

And when we get this data our return hero—if he or it comes back—will not be a Commander Jones or Captain Smith, but an instrument perhaps with the code number of 245-AX. There will be these preliminary unmanned explorations before human beings in space suits land on the Moon. But 245-AX will be treated almost as if it were more than human, for it

will be sterilized to preclude the contamination of the moon with earth's life forms before the biologists have a chance to explore whether any living microorganisms exist on the moon.

When our early satellite went up into outer space the tracking stations followed it along with many students who heard the rebroadcast of the "beep-bee-beep." They too will follow the explorations of these devices into outer space. Now what will all this require in the changeover from World Geography to Space Geography?

There will have to be a greater knowledge of the sciences and that includes mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology for the teacher as well as the student. Fourteen-year-old Bob brought a solar battery to class and explained how it works and what part it can play in space instruments. Fifteen-year-old Mike was studying by himself data on rocket fuels. He even explained to me how a retro-rocket works and how it slows down "a space ship with a payload as it is about to land on the Moon."

Some of those students have even been following the TV Educational courses by themselves learning the newer information we have already acquired in these sciences. And we will need a lot of new teaching devices with some of them yet to be invented, perhaps by you or you. We need some good space maps and no doubt these will be continually changing as we get additional data from our unmanned exploration units.

I am already showing Space Films and there will be more of these on the market in the near future. Perhaps some automation device will broadcast to the students from the Moon or an Asteroid out in Space. Seated in the classroom they may very well watch Robots working on a preliminary station being built on the Moon.

One thing is certain. We can no longer think in terms of a "vanishing frontier." With unlimited space we no longer have any frontier. When we finish exploring the First Galaxy, there will be the Second, then the Third and it will thus continue. Our textbooks in Geography will have to be continually revised. I won't be around, but some teacher will eventually take a Geography class on a trip to the Moon, or to Mars, or to Venus. So instead of kids and tourists to England or France, this will be a new version. But since kids will always be kids, some of them will bring back souvenirs.

If you think the Geography Teacher of the Future has a big headache, what about the Foreign Language Teachers who will have to Study and Teach Moonite and Martian?

THE GREATER EVIL!

THE TWO MEN STOOD AT ONE OF THE GREAT CROSSROADS OF SCIENCE! ON ONE SIDE LAY A ROUTE WHICH OFFERED A GREAT BOON TO HUMANITY... ON THE OTHER, A POSSIBILITY SO DREADFUL THAT EVEN TWO ICE BLOODED CHEMISTS COULD ONLY TREMBLE AS THE FINAL EXPERIMENT BEGAN!



ONLY THE WORLD WIDE REPUTATION OF ARTHUR HANLON PREVENTED THE REPORTERS FROM SCOFFING OUTRIGHT...



I'VE WORKED ON IT FOR YEARS AND TESTED IT ON MYSELF... IT WORKS!

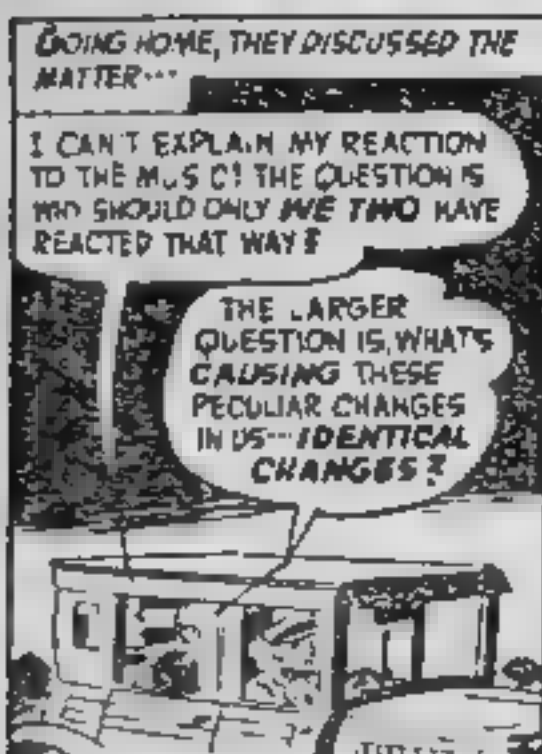
WHAT A STORY THIS IS! THE COMMON COLD AT LAST ERADICATED!















FORBES FORCE

EARTH CAPTAIN MICHAEL FORBES HAD FOUGHT WELL AGAINST THE MIGHTY FLEETS OF VENUS...BUT, IN THE END, THE VENUSIANS' WEAPONS HAD BATTERED HIS ONCE-PROUD FLAGSHIP...THEIR PARALYZING RAYS HAD STUNNED HIS CREW...AND FORBES HAD KNOWN THE FINAL HUMILIATION OF CAPTURE BY THE CREATURES OF VENUS THAT HE HAD COME TO HATE!

CAPTAIN FORBES? COME WITH US! YOUR CREWS WILL BE HELD HOSTAGE WHILE NEGOTIATIONS PERTAINING TO EARTH'S UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER ARE CARRIED OUT! OUR SCANNERS HAVE ALREADY INFORMED US OF YOUR ENORMOUS POPULARITY ON YOUR HOME PLANET!



A-3611

I READ YOUR MIND, REBELLIOUS FOOL! YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT IT IS USELESS TO RESIST US!



I SHALL WARN MY LEADERS! YOUR HATE IS MONUMENTAL...PERHAPS YOU WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THAN THE OTHERS!





THEN, HE WAS ALONE...
AS COMPLETELY ALONE
AS ANY MAN HAD EVER
BEEN UP TO THE YEAR
2187 A.D.!

THIS IS A FINE
PLACE TO HAVE A NER-
VOUS BREAKDOWN!



IT IS AN ABSO-
LUTELY DESOLATE
SATELLITE! I'VE
GOT TO USE THE
RATIONS SPAR-
INGLY...THEY'D
BE DELIGHTED TO
COME BACK AND
FIND ME STARVED
TO DEATH A SHORT
TIME FROM NOW!



A WEEK PASSED! HE SHAVED, KEPT NEAT, TRIED TO
OCCUPY HIMSELF WITH CONSTRUCTIVE THINKING...

EARTH HAS FOUGHT SPACE WARS BEFORE
THIS...AGAINST CRUEL ENEMIES, BUT
NONE SO BAD AS THESE REPTILES OF
VENUS! TRULY THEY HAVE NO FINER
INSTINCTS...



THEY REVEL IN IN-
FLICTING PAIN, ARE
DELIGHTED BY THE
DEATH OF OTHERS,
AND TAKE PLEASURE
AS THEY SMASH
ENTIRE CIVIL-
IZATIONS!



WOULD I HAVE
BRAVE MEN AT MY
BACK...THE
SPIRITS OF THE
MEN WHO SERVED
WITH ME ARE
LIKE SHADES
WANDERING LOST
THROUGH THE UN-
IVERSE!



WAS THIS MAN, THIS GALLANT WAR-
RIOR WHO HAD FOUGHT MANY EN-
EMIES IN COUNTLESS BATTLES ON
BEHALF OF THIS MOTHER PLANET...
WAS HE LOSING HIS SANITY NOW,
DRIVEN RELENTLESSLY BY A HATRED
OF THE FOUL ENEMIES OF HIS
WORLD? HE KNEW THE VISION BE-
FORE HIM COULD NOT BE REAL...
YET, HE RECOGNIZED THE SEMI-
TRANSPARENT FIGURE THERE!

WESTON? IS
IT...CAN IT BE
YOU, WESTON?



CAUGHT UP IN HIS FANTASY, CAPTAIN FORBES BLINKED AS HE SAW OTHERS APPEAR BEHIND WESTON, GALLANT SPACE-WARRIORS WHOM FORBES HAD SERVED WITH IN OTHER CAMPAIGNS! EVEN HE HAD THOUGHT LONG DEAD WERE THERE...

WE'RE HERE, SIR...AWAITING YOUR ORDERS!

YOU DIED, WESTON... IN THE SECOND GALACTIC CAMPAIGN! AND ROBELLO-YOUR TEAM WAS LOST IN THE JUPO FIREBALL!

YOU SUMMONED US, CAPTAIN FORBES! WE CAME BECAUSE YOU POSSESS THE POWER TO BRING US FROM WHERE WE WERE! WE WILL SERVE AGAINST THE JUPOS!

I'VE GONE MAD, PERHAPS...BUT THEY SEEM REAL, THEY ARE SOLID AND WILL SERVE!

BUT WEAPONS? YOU CANNOT FIGHT THE REPTILES OF VENUS WITHOUT WEAPONS!

THINK THEM HARD ENOUGH, CAPTAIN FORBES AND THEY WILL APPEAR!

FORBES! FROM FURROWED WITH THE VIOLENCE OF HIS THOUGHTS! REMEMBERING THE GREAT SPACE-CRUISERS OF EARTH, HE WISHED FERVENTLY HE HAD A FEW OF THEM HERE NOW...

A NUCLEAR-POWERED TYPE OF SPACE-CRUISER! THE LAST OF THEM WAS DESTROYED DEFENDING WASHINGTON AGAINST THE VENUSIAN ATTACKERS!

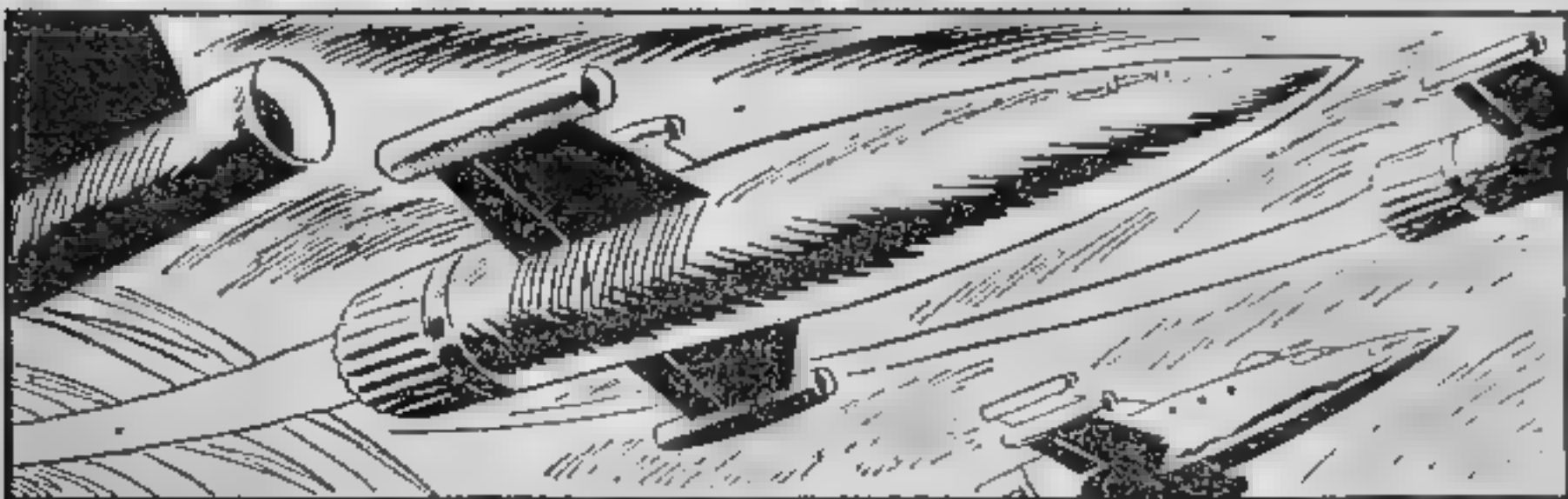
THEY APPEARED... BRAVE MEN OF EARTH;
SHIPS AND WEAPONS... A SPACE BATTAL-
ION RE-CREATED FROM THE PAST... BY
THE INDOMITABLE WILL OF CAPTAIN
FORBES' MIND!



CAPTAIN FORBES WENT ABOARD A
FAMILIAR SHIP ON WHICH HE HAD
ONCE SERVED, WHICH HAD BEEN
DESTROYED ONCE...

LIKE OLD
TIMES, CAP-
TAIN FORBES!

SET A COURSE
FOR VENUS, MR.
WESTON! ADJUST
ALL CRENS IN THE
FLEET THAT WE
WILL ENGAGE THE
VENUSIAN FLEETS
IN BATTLE!



VIDEO-SCREENS INDICATE
VENUSIAN FLEETS TAKING
OFF FROM HOME PLANETS
AND SPACE STATIONS,
CAPTAIN FORBES!



IN BATTLE PRIOR TO
THIS, VENUSIANS EN-
JOYED TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANTAGE... BUT NOW
THE ADVANTAGE LIES
WITH ME!



THESE SHIPS DO NOT
REALLY EXIST... NOT IN
THE CONVENTIONAL WAY
WE THINK OF EXISTENCE.
THUS... WE MAY ATTACK
WITHOUT FEAR OF DEATH
OR DESTRUCTION!

THAT'S
TRUE,
SIR!

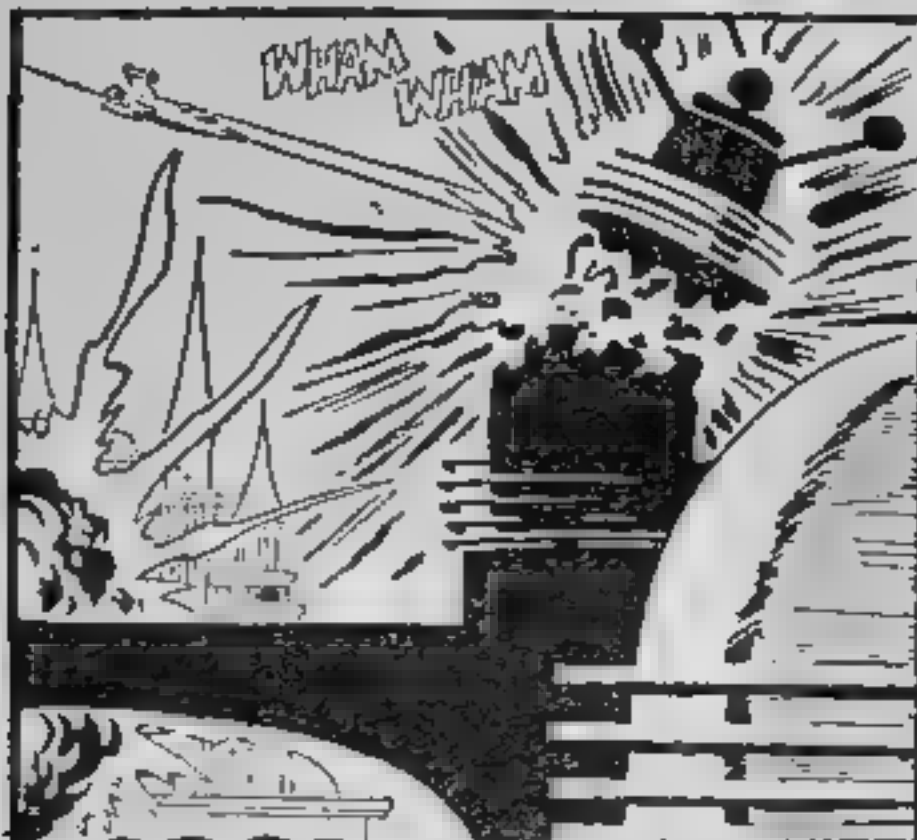


WORD WENT OUT, AS THE SUPER-POWERFUL FLAGSHIP OF VENUS ROSE FROM THE PAD, A SCOUT-SHIP OF EARTH DETACHED FROM FORMATION AND SCREAMED IN TO ATTACK! A MERCILESS FIRE RAKED THE SMALL SHIP BUT IT CONTINUED BORING IN...



WE'RE GOING DOWN TO ATTACK VENUS' SURFACE INSTALLATIONS, HOME DEFENSE UNITS, THE MILITARY COMPLEXES ON THE SURFACE!

WHAM



THIS WAS THE END AGAIN FOR CAPTAIN FORBES... BUT A HAPPIER FINAL BATTLE THAN BEFORE! FOR VENUS WAS DESTROYED, HER FLEETS WERE OBLITERATED, AND CAPTAIN FORBES' FORCE HAD ACHIEVED ITS AIM!

MY THANKS, MR. WESTON... WE DIE BUT EARTH SHALL LIVE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU AND YOUR GALLANT COMRADES DID TODAY!



IN A FLASH... THE SCENE VANISHED AND CAPTAIN FORBES WAS BACK ON THE SATELLITE, ALONE AGAIN! IT WAS A BITTER MOMENT...

A DREAM... A SELF-DELUDING GRANDIOSE DREAM! EARTH IS STILL IN GREAT DANGER AND VENUS HAS NOT BEEN DESTROYED!



THEN, HE HEARD THE POWERFUL MUTTER OF SPACE-JETS... AND A SHIP SPIRALED DOWN, SLOWED, AND GENTLY GROUNDED NEAR FORBES! NO REPTILEAN ENVOY EMERGED... IT WAS A WARM, HUMAN SMILE THAT FORBES SAW!

EARTH IS SAVED, CAPTAIN FORBES! SOMEHOW... SOME UNKNOWN ALLY OF EARTH RAIDED VENUS, SMASHED HER FLEETS, AND RAZED HER CITIES!

THEN, IT WAS NO DREAM! THANK HEAVENS, OUR WORLD IS SAFE AT LAST!



END

ROOKIE COP

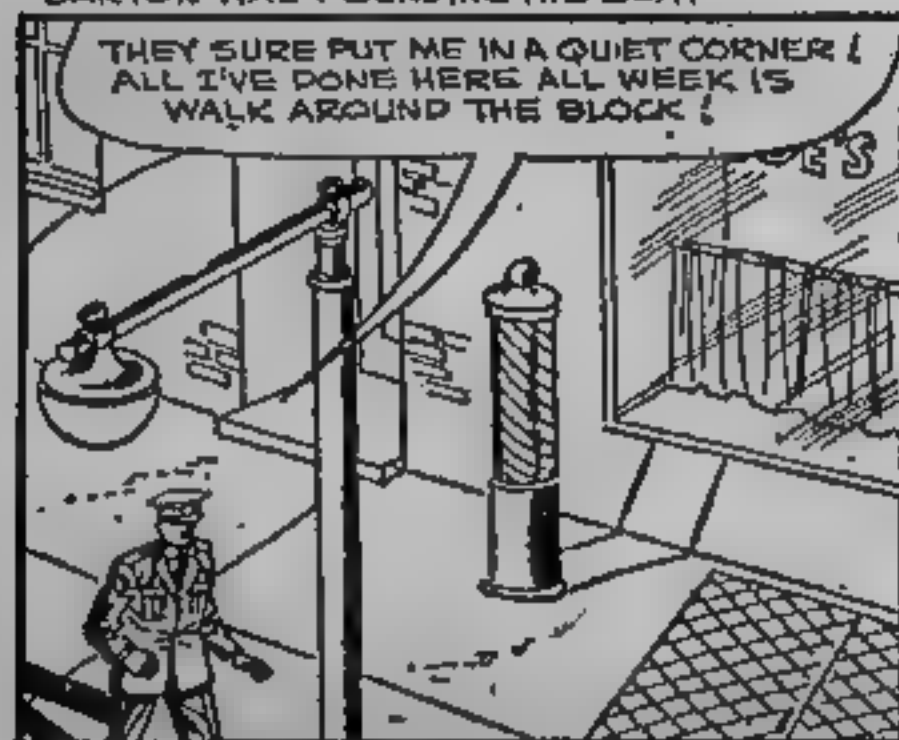
FOIL FOR A MOB

THE MOB THOUGHT IT WAS CLEVER, BUT NOW THERE AROSE THE NEED TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING----



A FEW NIGHTS LATER PATROLMAN SAM BARTON WAS POUNDING HIS BEAT----

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, JUST AROUND THE CORNER OF THE NEXT BLOCK----





IT COULD HAVE BEEN A BACKFIRE,
BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE A GUN!



A GOOD HAIL, ALL
RIGHT, DOM! BUT
YA DIDN'T NEED TA
HIT THE
BARTENDER!



THAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE BACKFIRING
CAR, OR IT COULD BE A GETAWAY! IT'S
TOO FAR AWAY TO READ THE
LICENSE NUMBER!



SAM FOUND THE DOOR OF THE TAVERN UN-
LOCKED, AND THE BARTENDER WOUNDED!
HE PHONED HEADQUARTERS!

YES, SIR, CAPTAIN! I'LL WAIT
HERE FOR THE
MEN!



MIGHT AS WELL TAKE DOWN THESE
NUMBERS FROM THE BOOTH WALL!



LATER, THE HOMICIDE MEN ARRIVED...

I GOT THESE NUMBERS
FROM THE PHONE BOOTH!
THE CRIMINALS MIGHT HAVE
FREQUENTED THIS
PLACE!

FOR A ROOKIE,
YOU DO ALL RIGHT,
KID! I'LL CHECK
THEM!



NEXT DAY--

ONE OF THESE PHONE NUMBERS BELONGS TO CHICK EILER, GARRITY! HE HAS A RECORD AND IS A SHEET WRITER FOR THE GAMBLING SYNDICATE!

THE GAMBLERS KNOW ME, CAPTAIN CRAIGIE! IT WOULD TIP OUR HAND TO TAIL HIM---



EILER'S ALSO FOND OF GIRLS! HOW ABOUT LIEUTENANT MARY GRANT?

GOOD! YOUNG BARTON'S ON THAT BEAT! SHE COULD SLIP HIM INFORMATION AND HE COULD CALL IT IN!

LIEUTENANT MARY GRANT, POSING AS A MEMBER OF THE SYNDICATE FROM ANOTHER CITY, OBTAINED A JOB AS DICE GIRL FOR THE GAMBLING HOUSE WHERE CHICK EILER WORKED---



AT THE NIGHT'S END---

YOU'RE O.K. MARY! I'M CHICK EILER! WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

IT COSTS MONEY TO TAKE ME OUT, CHICK! LOTS OF IT!



LOOK AT THIS ROLL, MARY! AND THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM! DO I GET A DATE!

THAT'S DIFFERENT, CHICK! WHY NOT?



SEVERAL DATES LATER---

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT DATING YOU STEADILY, CHICK! MAYBE YOU'RE JUST MAKING A SPLASH! A JOB LIKE YOURS DOESN'T PAY THIS KIND OF MONEY!

LISTEN, CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET, MARY? I'LL LET YOU IN ON SOMETHING GOOD!



MARY PASSED THE WORD TO SAM BARTON! HE REPORTED TO HEADQUARTERS! LATER--



BUT THE NEXT DAY AT SYNDICATE HEADQUARTERS,





HOW WAS THAT,
BABY--- UH--
WH---

DON'T ACT LIKE ANY-
THING'S WRONG! WE'D
JUST AS SOON MOW
YA DOWN HERE!



BUT OUTSIDE---

THOSE GOONS HAVE A COUPLE OF RUDS ON
MARY AND EILER! IF I TAKE TIME OUT TO
PHONE HEADQUARTERS I'LL LOSE THEM!



THEN---

I'LL HAVE TO
SURPRISE
THEM---

ALL RIGHT!
GET IN THE---
UH---
COPS!



OH HWWN!

WHEW! AM I
GLAD TO SEE
YOU, SAM!



LATER---

WELL, THE
SCHMIDT
MOB IS IN JAIL! WE
CAUGHT THEM RAIDING
THE SYNDICATE!
THEY CONFESSED
TO GETTING
KOSSUTH, TOO!

AND OLEY CROCK,
CHICK EILER AND
ALL THE REST
OF THE GANG
JAILED! UGH!
THAT
CHICK
EILER!



WELL, IF A LIEUTENANT
WOULDN'T MIND DATING
A ROOKIE---

OH, I'D LOVE TO,
SAM! AND BE-
LIEVE ME, YOU'RE
NO ROOKIE!
NOT ANY MORE!

THE
END

OF ALL THE COLONIES ON THE PLANET, ONLY THIS ONE SEEMED TO HAVE SURVIVED THE GREAT CATAclysm! THEN MARTIN HEARD...

A VOICE *from* NOWHERE!

SO WE FINALLY CAUGHT YOU! THE WHOLE PLANET WRECKED... THIRTY OF US LEFT OUT OF THOUSANDS OF COLONISTS, AND YOU THINK ONLY OF YOURSELF! HOW LOW CAN A MAN GET?

WE'RE MAROONED HERE! WE'LL STARVE! WHY SHOULD I GO HUNGRY, WHILE WE STILL HAVE FOOD?



BECAUSE THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND SINCE THE BIG SWARM AND THE TIDAL WAVES HIT! AND BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US HERE AT STATION ONE!

YOU'RE NOT MUCH MARTIN, BUT YOU'RE STILL A HUMAN BEING. SO TRY TO ACT LIKE ONE! WE'RE GOING TO HOLD A TRIAL! ON YOUR FEET!

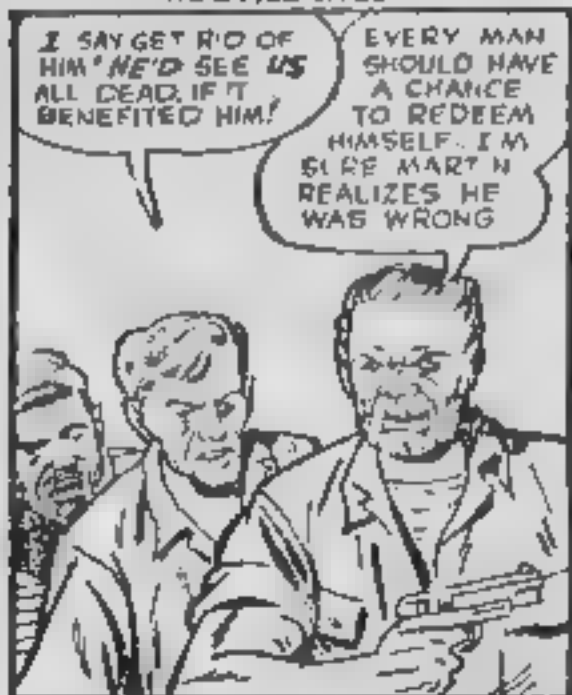
TRIAL? YOU CAN'T! YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO TRY ME! YOU'RE JUST COLONISTS FROM EARTH... LIKE ME!





WE CAN MARTIN AND WE WILL! OR WOULD YOU RATHER WE JUST TOOK YOU OUT AND DEALT WITH YOU THE WAY WE WOULD ANY OTHER DANGEROUS ANIMAL?

MARTIN RAGED AND THEN SUDDENLY, HE WAS SILENT! LIFE HAD BEEN HARD, SINCE THE CATAclysm! BUT AT LEAST HE STILL LIVED



I SAY GET RID OF HIM! HE'D SEE US ALL DEAD IF IT BENEFITED HIM!

EVERY MAN SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF. I'M SURE MARTIN REALIZES HE WAS WRONG



ALL RIGHT MARTIN, YOU'VE GOT ONE COLLECTOR WE HAVE ALIVEN AND CHILDREN WITH US! FROM NOW ON THEIR NEEDS COME FIRST! AGREED?

YES! I AGREE I MADE A MISTAKE - BUT I'LL CHANGE! YOU'LL SEE!

A MOST IN HIS COWARD'S RELIEF, MARTIN WEPT! BUT AFTERWARD, THERE WERE NO TEARS IN HIS HEART! THERE WAS ONLY BITTERNESS...



LOOK AT THEM! THEY AVOID ME AS IF I HAD THE PLAGUE! I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM!

AFTERWARD MARTIN HATED! HE WORKED BECAUSE THERE WAS NO CHOICE! BUT THE HATRED IN HIM GREW! EVERY DAY! EVERY NIGHT



MARTIN! WAKE UP! IT'S YOUR SHIFT ON THE SWITCHBOARD!

THE SWITCHBOARD WHAT'S THE USE? NO ONE WILL ANSWER!



FIFTY DIRECTORIES! THOUSANDS OF LISTINGS! WE CAN'T CALL THEM ALL!

THE PHONES WERE AUTOMATIC! SOMEWHERE THERE MAY STILL BE SOMEONE ALIVE! ONE OF THOSE NUMBERS MAY ANSWER! SO WE'LL KEEP TRYING! ABOVE!

CONTEMPT, DISLIKE... THESE WERE MARTIN'S COMPANIONS! BUT A COWARD DOES NOT FIGHT BACK! AND SOMETIMES, EVEN A COWARD CAN BE LUCKY



DEAD! ONE NUMBER AFTER ANOTHER! JUST LIKE THIS ONE WILL BE THE FOOLS! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES STILL ALIVE ON THE PLANE!

HELLO.



"A VOICE! IT WAS A VOICE!
A WOMAN! HELLO! ANSWER
ME! HELLO!"



"NOTHING! BUT THERE WAS
SOMEONE! AT STATION SIX!
THE COLONY OF NEW EARTH!
TWO HUNDRED MILES FROM
HERE! I'LL TELL THE OTHERS!"



"NO! WHY SHOULD I TELL THEM? I CAN
GET AWAY FROM THEM! I CAN GO TO NEW
EARTH! WHERE THEY WON'T TREAT ME
WITH CONTEMPT! THIS IS MY CHANCE!"

GLEEFULLY MARTIN HUGGED HIS SECRET! THE OTHERS WOULD
SUFFER AFTER HE WAS GONE. BUT WHAT WAS THAT TO HIM?

WHAT DID IT MATTER TO MARTIN. IF WOMEN AND
CHILDREN MIGHT STARVE? THEY WOULD NOT SNEER
AT HIM AT STATION SIX!



"LET THEM HATE ME AS MUCH AS THEY WANT TO! BY
MORNING, I'LL BE MILES AWAY, AND NO ONE WILL
KNOW WHERE... NO ONE!"



MARTIN WAS HAPPY. BUT TWO HUNDRED MILES IS A LONG WAY



"THE LAST CAN! AFTER THIS THERE'S
NOTHING!"



"BUT THREE MORE DAYS SHOULD GET ME TO
NEW EARTH! I'LL MAKE IT! I'VE GOT TO!"

AND MARTIN DID MAKE IT! SOMEHOW IN THE END, HE STAGGERED DOWN A DEAD STREET...



THAT'S THE BUILDING! ONE HUNDRED AND A K THAT'S WHERE THE PHONE WAS THE ONE THAT ANSWERED!



HELLO! WHERE ARE YOU? I HEARD YOU ON THE PHONE! WHERE



NO ONE! THERE'S NO ONE HERE! THERE'S NO ONE! THE ONLY ONE SOMEWHERE IN THERE!

HELLO!

SOMEHOW IN THE END MARTIN FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR! BUT THERE WAS NO JOY IN IT!



THIS IS A RECORDING! THERE IS NO ONE IN THE SHOP! WOULD YOU CARE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE?

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!



A RECORDING! JUST A RECORDING! I MUST HAVE STARTED IT AGAIN WHEN I RAN IN! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK! I'M ALL ALONE! ALONE!

NO, THERE WAS NO JOY FOR MARTIN AT NEW EARTH! HE RAN, BACK THE WAY HE HAD COME BUT NOT FAR



IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER! I'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY COME FOR ME FROM STATION ONE!

BUT EVEN AS THE THOUGHT CROSSED HIS MIND, MARTIN KNEW...



I WAS SO CAREFUL NOT TO LET THEM KNOW WHERE I WAS GOING! WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I KNEW I HAD A SPECIAL STORY ON MY HANDS RIGHT FROM THE START... THE INCREDIBLE TRUTH OF COURSE I COULDN'T EVEN GUESS! MY QUARRY WAS A MAN WHO'D BECOME A LEGEND DURING HIS OWN LIFE! HE AS STRANGE A FIGURE AS EVER DREW BREATH! I WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE HIM INTO THE WILDEST DEPTHS OF DARKEST AFRICA -- EVEN INTO THE VERY HEART OF --

DROBNIY'S DOMAIN!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING... THEY'RE ACTING ALMOST HUMAN! WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME?



IT DIDN'T TAKE PSYCHIC POWERS TO KNOW AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT WAS IN STORE WHEN THE OWNER OF MY NEWSPAPER CALLED ME IN...

MAKE. I WANT YOU TO TRACK DOWN ANTON DROBNIY! I DON'T CARE WHAT IT COSTS OR HOW MUCH IT TAKES... BUT DO IT!

ANTON DROBNIY? YOU MEAN THAT OLD CIRCUS PERFORMER?



THE GREATEST ANIMAL TRAINER THAT EVER LIVED! HE RETIRED ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO AND DISAPPEARED -- AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS FAME!

I'LL DO A LITTLE RESEARCH RIGHT NOW, BOSS!





WITHIN A YEAR THE NAME OF ANTON DROBNY WAS WORLD FAMOUS! THE WORLD HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH PHENOMENAL ANIMAL ACTS...



FROM THEN ON IT WAS ONE SUCCESS AFTER THE OTHER, UNTIL HIS SUDDEN RETIREMENT AND DISAPPEARANCE...



THE GUY INTRIGUES ME, CHIEF! I'M READY TO TRACK HIM DOWN!

GOOD! GET GOING... AND I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO TRACK HIM TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE!

I STARTED TRAVELLING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, SPEAKING WITH OLD CIRCUS HANDS WHO HAD KNOWN HIM...

DROBNY? OF COURSE I REMEMBER HIM - HE'S NOT THE SORT OF MAN ONE COULD FORGET! AN AMAZING PERSON - ABSOLUTELY FEARLESS! IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE HOW FIERCE AN ANIMAL WAS - LIONS, TIGERS, PANTHERS - HE FACED THEM ALL UNARMED!



DROBNY? NO, I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE! HE WAS A LONER, HAD NO FRIENDS... LIVED VERY SIMPLY... HARDLY SPENT A PENNY EVEN THOUGH HE MADE A HUGE FORTUNE! FRANKLY, THE MAN SCARED ME! I DON'T THINK HE WAS QUITE... HUMAN!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NOT QUITE HUMAN?

I - I DON'T KNOW! BUT IF YOU ASK ME - THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS WAS - HE COULD TALK TO ANIMALS! I MEAN - REALLY TALK TO 'EM!



THE TRAIL LED ALL OVER EUROPE AND FINALLY, ON A TIP, TO AFRICA...

HE ONCE SAID THAT WHEN HE RETIRED, HE'D LIVE IN AFRICA! IF HE'S THERE AND ET L'AJIVE I'LL FIND HIM!

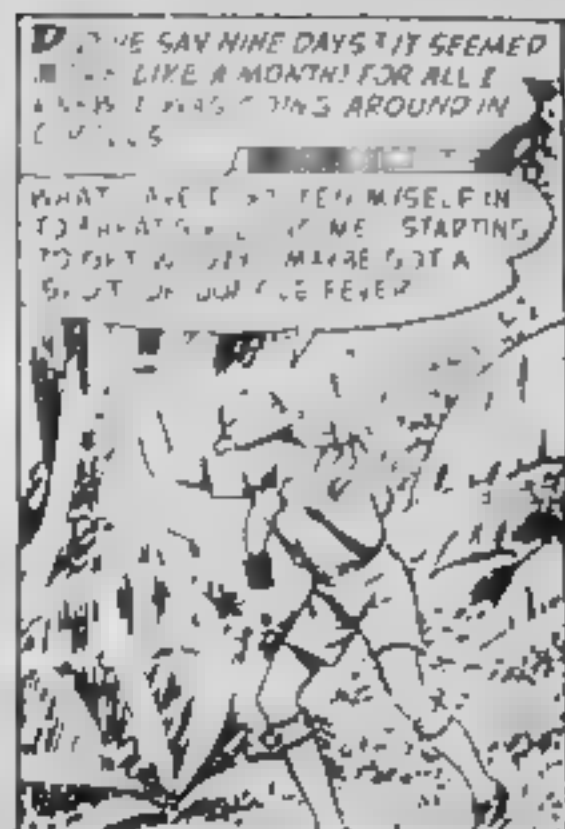


IT WAS WORSE THAN A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK! FOR MONTHS I TREKKED EVERYWHERE WITH A NATIVE GUIDE, ASKING THE SAME QUESTION AND GETTING THE SAME REPLY...

NO - I KNOW NOTHING...

THIS MAY BE A WILD GOOSE CHASE, BUT I WON'T GIVE UP!





MY HEART WAS POUNDING WILDLY AS WE APPROACHED! A LONE SINISTER FIGURE STOOD ON THE STEPS - HIS EYES DARK AND GLAZING -

THE MENACING FANGS OF THE BIG CATS TERRIFIED ME - I KNEW MY LIFE WAS HANGING ON A THREAD! HE GRANTED SOMETHING, AND THE GORILLAS LOPED OFF -



HE TOOK ME INTO THE HOUSE, SHOWED ME INTO A BEDROOM -

EVER FIND YOURSELF LOCKED UP WITH A WILD BEAST? IT'S AN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE, I ASSURE YOU! EVERY MOVE I MADE THE LION SNARLED -

HOURS LATER MY HOST RETURNED! IT WAS THE STRANGEST MEAL ANY MAN EVER ATE -

I CAN'T SPEAK WITH YOU NOW! REMAIN HERE TILL I RETURN! MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE - OR MY FRIEND SULTAN WILL BE VERY ANGRY!

I - I HAVE NO THOUGHT OF ESCAPING, SIR!

E-EASY THERE, SULTAN! GUESS THE FIRE SCARES YOU - WELL I'M SCARED TOO!

I WAS CALLED AWAY TO DOCTOR A SICK PANTHER! DO YOU FIND THE FOOD WELL PREPARED?

I - I'M TOO TERRIFIED TO TELL! AM I INSANE, MR. DROBNY? ARE MY EYES DECEIVING ME?



THE SHADOW OF A SMILE CROSSED HIS SINISTER FEATURES -

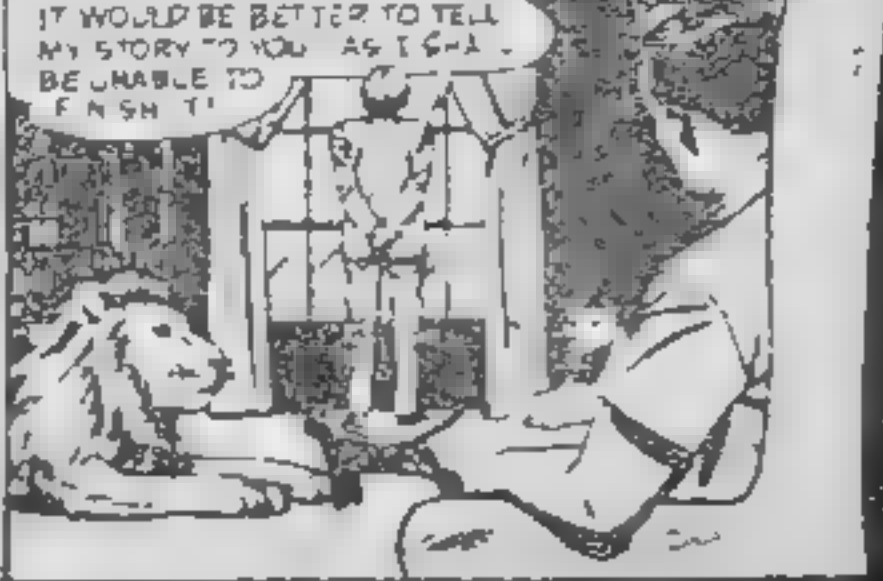
HE SAID NOTHING - AFTERWARDS, IN A LIBRARY CONTAINING THOUSANDS OF BOOKS

HAVE NO FEAR! YOU ARE PERFECTLY SANE AND FOR THE MOMENT - QUITE SAFE!

IT'S TRUE THEN - IN SOME WAY YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THESE CREATURES!

I HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT ON EARTH MY FRIEND! I HAVE BEEN WRITING A BOOK FOR MANY YEARS, BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TELL MY STORY TO YOU - AS I SHALL BE UNABLE TO FINISH IT!

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR TIME IS SHORT?



I SHALL NEVER FORGET THE PECULIAR SOUND OF HIS VOICE...SO MUSICAL, SORT OF...UNEARTHLY

I HAVE CERTAIN POWERS! I KNOW THAT I SHALL DIE ON FRIDAY MORNING...DON'T ASK ME HOW! LET'S NOT WASTE TIME...YOU HAVE COME FOR A STORY...

I'M LISTENING...



FIRST I WAS BORN ON A LONELY SOUTH AFRICAN FARM 60 YEARS AGO! MY PARENTS, MAY THEY REST IN ETERNAL PEACE WERE MUTES...SO WE COULD ONLY CONVERSE IN SIGN LANGUAGE...



"IN THOSE DAYS WE HAD FEW VISITORS! NEVER HEARING A HUMAN VOICE, I NEVER LEARNED TO SPEAK..."

COME TO DINNER FATHER!

IN A MOMENT, MY SON!



"THE ONLY SOUNDS I EVER HEARD WERE MADE BY NATURE! THE WIND, THUNDER AND RAIN WERE MY COMPANIONS... AND THE CREATURES OF THE FOREST! I LISTENED TO THEM BY THE HOUR..."



THEY CHATTER ALL DAY LONG! SURELY IT MEANS SOMETHING! IF I LISTEN CLOSELY, PERHAPS I CAN UNDERSTAND!

"FOR SOME REASON, THE BIRDS AND BEASTS NEVER FEARED ME! I WALKED AMONG THEM LIKE A WILD ANIMAL MYSELF, ALWAYS LISTENING TO THEIR GRUNTS AND PIPING, AND THEN ONE DAY..."



CRAWWK! SCRAWW!

WH-WHAT IS THIS? THOSE SOUNDS... I CAN UNDERSTAND! THE CRANE IS SAYING THAT THEY LOOK UPON ME AS A FRIEND!

YES, MY GOOD SIR, I COULD UNDERSTAND...AND I BELIEVE ANY MAN CAN, IF HIS HEART IS KIND AND HE TRIES VERY HARD FOR A LONG TIME! SOON I WENT EVERYWHERE FEARLESSLY, LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF ALL THE JUNGLE FOLK...



"I WAS STILL A BOY WHEN HUNTERS BEGAN TO APPEAR! AFRICA TEEMED WITH WILD LIFE THEN, AND THE KILLERS WERE RUTHLESS..."



THEY-- KILLED HIM! BUT WHY-- HE HAS AS MUCH RIGHT TO LIVE AS THEY!

"I WAS 14 YEARS OLD WHEN FEVER CARRIED OFF BOTH MY PARENTS! I WAS COMPLETELY ALONE IN THE WORLD...UNABLE EVEN TO SPEAK WITH MY FELLOW MORTALS..."

I DID EVERYTHING I COULD FOR THEM, MY BOY! POOR FELLOW... YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY! YOU'LL BE SENT TO A STATE ORPHANAGE...RECEIVE AN EDUCATION..."



"THE AUTHORITIES WERE UPSET WHEN THE DOCTOR TURNED ME OVER TO THEM...FOR I WAS ONLY A WILD THING! I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH YOUNG CHILDREN..."

STOP DREAMING, ANTON...PAY ATTENTION! YOU HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH BOYS YOUR OWN AGE!

IF ONLY THEY KNEW HOW I HATE IT INDOORS! I WANT TO BE OUTSIDE...IN THE JUNGLE...WITH MY FRIENDS!



"BUT MY MIND WAS QUICK, AND I RAPIDLY ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE! WHEN I WAS 18..."

WE CAN'T KEEP YOU HERE ANY LONGER, ANTON! WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF YOU? WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THIS WORLD?

MY LIFE IS ALL PLANNED, SR... DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...



"I HAD A PLAN WHICH ABSORBED ALL MY INTEREST! THE SICKENING NEWSPAPER REPORTS ONLY CONFIRMED MY DESIRES..."

OPEN HUNTING SEASON AGAIN! THE WILD ANIMALS GROW FEWER IN NUMBER EACH YEAR! UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE, THE TIME WILL SOON COME WHEN THERE WON'T BE A WILD BEAST LEFT IN AFRICA!



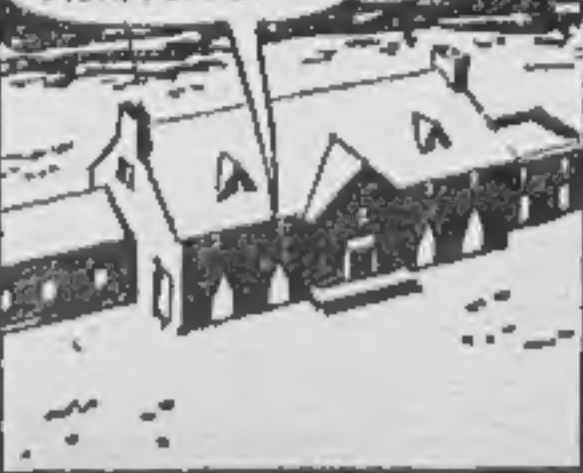
"MY PLAN? TO MAKE A FORTUNE, AND TO STUDY ANIMAL MEDICINE! THERE WAS BUT ONE WAY TO DO THAT, AND IT MEANT GOING TO EUROPE..."

YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER WORKED FOR A CIRCUS? STOP WASTING MY TIME!

ALL I WANT IS A CHANCE!



THE WORLD KNOWS THE REST! I ASTOUNDED AUDIENCES EVERYWHERE WITH MY FEATS...FOR THE TRUTH WAS, I COULD SPEAK TO THE ANIMALS, AND THEY OBEYED ME! I KEPT TO MYSELF, NEVER MARRIED, SAVED EVERY PENNY! REAL ESTATE IN THIS PART OF AFRICA IS CHEAP! WHEN I COULD BUY A HUGE TRACT OF JUNGLE, I RETIRED AND DISAPPEARED...



ON MY DOMAIN, ALL CREATURES ARE SAFE FROM THE WHITE MAN'S RIFLE! I HAVE TRAINED GORILLAS AS GUARDS...NO ONE CAN ENTER UNDETECTED! BUT NOW MY GREAT WORK IS COMING TO AN END! AFTER MY DEATH, THINGS SHALL BE AS BEFORE!

BUT WHY? CAN'T THE GORILLAS GO ON KEEPING GUARD?

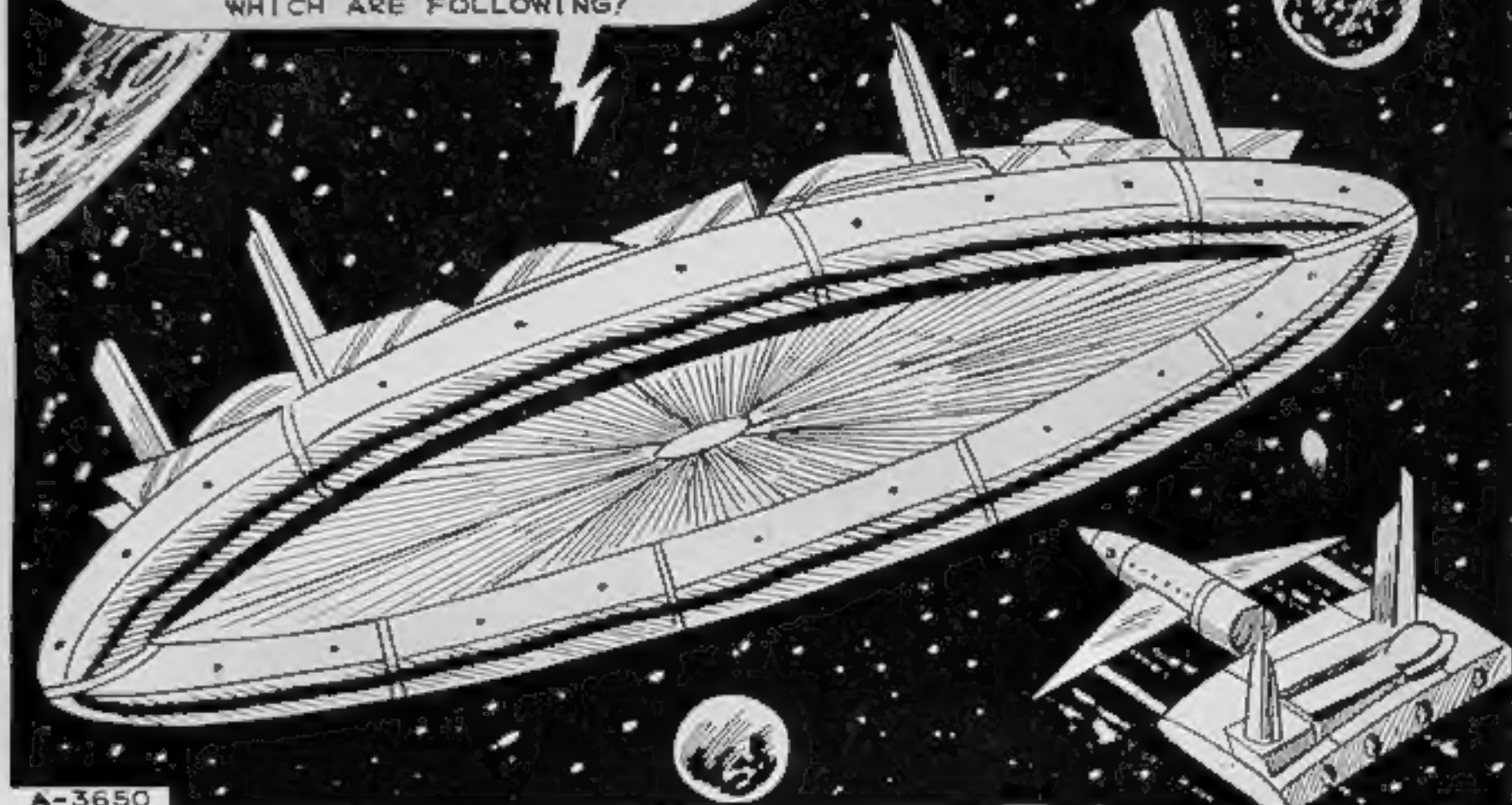




CITY OF THE FUTURE

SOME OF THE GREAT CITIES OF THE CENTURIES COMING WILL BE BUILT IN SPACE... NOT ON PLANETS WITH UNFAVORABLE CLIMATES AND ENEMIES CLOSE AT HAND BUT OUT BY THEMSELVES! AT FIRST THEY'LL BE RELATIVELY SMALL IN SIZE!

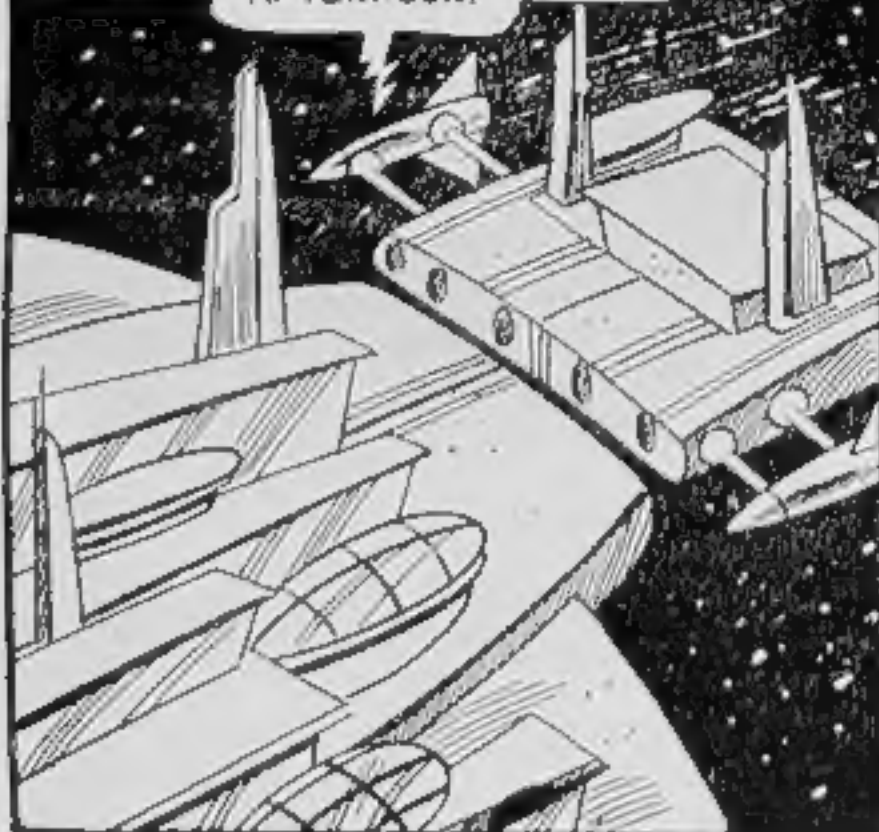
CONSTRUCTION UNIT 14 TOWING SEGMENTS OF ANNEX! WILL CONNECT AND HAVE READY FOR POWER SECTIONS WHICH ARE FOLLOWING!



A-3650

VAST COMPLEXES WILL BE BUILT IN SPACE... TO STORE CARGO FOR PASSAGE TO THE PLANETS...

LOTS 17B, 23A, AND FOOD SHIPMENT WILL BE TRANS-SHIPPED TO JUPITER BY REGULAR FLIGHT J17 THIS AFTERNOON!



AND INHABITANTS WILL BE BORN, LIVE THEIR LIVES, AND DIE ON THESE ISLANDS IN SPACE!



END

*COMPANION
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THIS SERIES*

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PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW